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Kinnock's PR pledge derided

Ashdown rejects Labour shift on electoral reform

By Philip Webster and Robin Oakley

AN EXPECTED pledge by Labour to examine reforms in the Westminster voting system was dismissed by Paddy Ashdown and derided by the Tories last night as the parties prepared for an announcement that the general election will be on April 9.

With Conservative MPs hoping for a Budget tomorrow that will win votes and be prudent enough to reassure the markets, John Major is expected to tell the Queen on Wednesday of his decision to go to the country.

A formal announcement could come later that night or on Thursday. The prime minister, who spent yesterday in his constituency, is thought to have confirmed arrangements for making the announcement in telephone talks with Chris Patten, the Conservative chairman.

In a significant shift of stance designed to attract centre-party voters, Neil Kinnock has decided that the Labour election manifesto will promise a government

enquiry into electoral reform. Without committing the leadership to change, the move is seen by senior Labour MPs as the party's most important step yet towards Labour one day backing proportional representation.

Mr Ashdown accused Mr Kinnock of playing the "usual game" of trying to lure voters from the Liberal Democrats camp by making vague promises even as the Conservatives said it smacked of defeatism. Mr Ashdown told Mr Kinnock to come off the fence.

Mr Ashdown, addressing his party's spring conference in Glasgow, made plain that he would not be "lobbied off" by promises of enquiries, and said that Labour would have to "bite the bullet" on PR if it wanted a deal in a hung parliament. Mr Ashdown continues to emphasise that his price for co-operation would be legislation on electoral reform.

Mr Patten said if Labour really thought it could win it would not even contemplate PR. It was clear that Labour's best hope was Britain's worst nightmare, a hung parliament with all the indecision and instability that it would produce.

The Tory chairman said Labour had started horse-trading in public. "Labour would say anything to try to grab up a few more votes. Their readiness to hint at constitutional upheaval, without even having the courage to make their own position clear, is yet another sign of this."

Despite the public attacks the importance of Mr Kinnock's move was not lost on senior politicians. Labour is not expected to promise a Speaker's conference on reform or a royal commission, but to turn its existing enquiry into electoral reform headed by Raymond Plant into a government enquiry with members of other parties invited to sit on it.

Mr Kinnock, who has been careful to leave open the door on PR, has delighted Labour reform campaigners by his decision, while PR sceptics accept that a promise to hold a full-blown enquiry could

give the party a strong card in any negotiations in a hung parliament.

Although Mr Kinnock has declared his opposition to pacts, some Labour MPs say it would be hard for the Liberal Democrats to bring down a Labour government committed to a course of action that could lead to PR.

Mr Ashdown, after the party conference, said: "When it comes to fair votes the Tories say 'no', the Liberal Democrats say 'yes' and Labour cannot get further than 'maybe'." Mr Ashdown dismissed reports that he was seeking four places for his party in a coalition cabinet by insisting that "nobody in this party is talking about how many homes there should be on ministerial 'Dampers'". He made clear that any deal would have to include PR and the commitment to a four-year parliamentary programme. The Liberal Democrats would not back a Labour government promoting a house-ride for Scotland, unless it accepted PR for Westminster as well.

In his rallying speech to the conference Mr Ashdown concentrated on the theme of reforming the system of government and condemning the two main parties for an election campaign which had been, he said, a disgrace to British politics.

He made it clear that his party would aim for a position of equidistance from Labour and the Tories. The Tories, he said, had failed and Labour's programme was "unrealistic, long and dragged the 'currency' of politics."

In a speech of powerful rhetoric but little policy, delivered to an ecstatic audience, Mr Ashdown, scolding the "take's progress" of election bribes culminating in the national lottery. "When this government was elected, Margaret Thatcher promised us an economic miracle. Now Ken Baker gives us a national lottery. From miracle to lottery. From sound money to loads of money. From Adam Smith to William Hill in 13 disastrous years."

Wooing the centre, page 2
Leading article, page 13



Kitchen power: a grim-faced housewife in Moscow makes her own International Women's Day comment on sexual inequality by holding a spoon and carrying pots tied round her neck

Poll tax rebellion looms in marginals

By Douglas Broom
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

POLL TAXPAYERS must find a way to make up the shortfall caused by non-payment.

Surcharges to compensate for non-payers last year include £69 in Manchester, £57 in Haringey and £45 in Plymouth. The Times has completed the biggest independent survey of the bills due next month, which suggests that the new charge will average £270.

The surcharges are expected to cause great indignation and there are fears of a fresh poll tax rebellion. Almost two fifths of adults say they will refuse to pay the surcharges imposed because of the failure of others to pay, according to an NOP poll for the Local Government Chronicle and Public Eye in the 50 most marginal constituencies.

Of the 1,000 voters questioned 38 per cent said they would not pay surcharges. More than one in four Tory voters who said they would switch allegiance at the election gave the tax as their main reason.

The survey by The Times of poll tax bills set by 311 of the 405 councils which levy the community charge in England and Wales has found that individual bills will rise by an average of 12.8 per cent. The average for England is £13 above the government target of £257.

The Labour party last night produced its own figures suggesting that the average charge would be £279 in England — 8.9 per cent above target — and £148 in Wales.

Rebellion threat, page 5

Artillery opens up as Azerbaijanis look for revenge

Anatoliy Liven has a hilltop view of a savage but sometimes comic battle between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in disputed Nagorno-Karabakh

Our position was an artillery spotter's dream. From the top of the hill on which we were crouching, just west of the Azerbaijani village of Shelli and on the border of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the battlefield lay before us. To the southwest, raging fires marked where Azerbaijani rockets had landed in the Armenian-held town of Askeran.

Between us and the town, a mile and a half away, oil storage tanks, miraculously intact, marked the furthest Armenian position. To the



northwest, a cemetery on the edge of the Azerbaijani headquarters of Agdam marked the Azerbaijani line of control. The Karga river meanders in the valley in which the town lies.

From our observation post we suddenly saw a flight of Azerbaijani Grad rockets streaking from their truck-mounted multiple launchers in the valley. Exactly seven seconds later, they exploded in Askeran.

As we watched, the Azerbaijanis brought up one of their launchers from another position, fired two shots, and then opened up

with a volley of 19 rockets. Their aim was not good, and many of the rockets landed on the sides of the mountain beyond the town.

However, a dozen red tongues of flame flared briefly all over the centre of the town, and for half a minute or so, Askeran must have felt close to hell. The Azerbaijanis cheered and yelled "Allah" as the rockets burst.

After the mass killings last week of Azerbaijani civilians from Khojaly, a few miles away, a fierce spirit of revenge has possessed the Azerbaijanis. "If you get to Askeran don't bother to film Armenian corpses," an Azerbaijani journalist told us. "They are beasts, not men," he said.

As yet, the Azerbaijani organisation and equipment fall far short of their war aims. Despite our superb observation post, not one of the Azerbaijani soldiers on the hill was equipped with a pair of binoculars. In the valley, apart from the two rocket launchers, there were three 120mm cannons, one without a barrel and all seemingly short of ammunition. Azerbaijanis in an array of civilian vehicles, a police car, a garbage truck, and several buses watched alongside.

When the Armenians returned fire, which landed harmlessly on the opposite hillside, the spectators rushed into the vehicles, and sped off towards Shelli. The men on the hill hooted with

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Mediation efforts, page 10

Feminist fervour has its day

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day yesterday was celebrated with feminist fervour in South Korea, China and at the United Nations, but on a low-key, cynical note in the former Soviet Union, where once it was a main holiday in the ideological calendar (Michael Binyon writes).

Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, boasted of Britain's role in helping women in the Third World. In South Korea, a 68-year-old former Japanese "sex slave" was named Woman of the Year.

In Moscow, there was little to celebrate. Traditional ceremonies were cancelled, flowers were scarce and gifts were too expensive for most.

TODAY IN
THE TIMES

DANGER ON
THE SHAW



Daniel Massey on Shavian portraits of doom for today's world in Heartbreak House
Life & Times
Page 3

UPLIFTING
UNDERWEAR



A return to bone corsetry is raising the bosom's profile
Life & Times
Page 5

SMOKING OUT
THE TAXMAN



A fuming Peter Barnard doubts any Budget can extinguish his addiction
Page 12

Mandela in voters plea

Nelson Mandela appealed to white voters to choose democracy and reject racism in next week's referendum on apartheid reforms.

His appeal came a day after P.W. Botha, the former president, called for a "no" vote. Page 9

Major scrutiny

John Major is examining the company prospectus of a property dealer who plans to exploit tax incentives to raise £5 million for a raid on the lucrative repossessed-homes auction market. Page 3

Vigilance call

Complaints about tasteless, indecent and misleading advertising last year passed 10,000 for the first time, prompting the Advertising Standards Authority to call for more vigilance. Page 6

Hopes fade

President Bush's hopes for a quick end to the Buchanan rebellion were disappointed after another powerful attack from the Republican right. Page 7

Liverpool win

Liverpool beat Aston Villa 1-0 in the FA Cup quarter-final and will play Portsmouth for a final place. The winners of today's tie between Chelsea and Sunderland meet Norwich or Southampton. Page 28

The Times

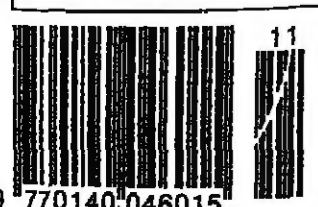
The audited circulation of The Times for February was 394,754, an increase of 3,161 on January. This rise in sale of 0.8 per cent compares with one of 0.2 per cent for The Daily Telegraph and a fall of 0.1 per cent for The Independent.

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1X

Ministers hint at tax cuts in £3bn package

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

A £3 billion boost for the economy, combining 1p off income tax with special help for business, is expected in the Budget tomorrow.

A succession of senior ministers hinted strongly at tax cuts yesterday as Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, prepared to deliver what Tory sources expect to be a "popular but prudent" package.

Mr Lamont is now expected to announce a public sector borrowing requirement of £25 billion or less, after several weeks of speculation suggesting it could rise as high as £30 billion.

Ministers hope that while the Chancellor can come up with some eye-catching mea-

sures, the Budget will not damage the government's reputation for sound management of the economy.

A cut of 1p off the base rate, in addition to improvements in the allowances, will look relatively cautious, ministers believe, after some reports suggesting as much as 3p being cut.

Treasury sources were yesterday dampening expectations of an interest rate cut this week, although a 0.5 per cent.

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Women's priorities
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CIA 'paralysed by hunt for imaginary moles'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK



Angleton: his suspicions 'inflicted great damage'

THE world already knows much about the double-agents and mole-hunting which beset the British secret service in the Cold War. The CIA, it turns out, was every bit as plagued by fear of treason as the British. It secretly paid large sums in compensation to agents falsely accused of being moles, under a so-called "Mole Relief Act".

The careers of dozens of officials at the spy agency were ruined or damaged in the fruitless pursuit of a double-agent called "Sasha", whose real name was supposed to begin with a K. According to a new book by David Wise, an intelligence specialist, the distrust paralysed the CIA. In the past three years, the CIA quietly paid half a million dollars (£300,000) to Peter Karlow, as compensation for falsely branding him a traitor and sacking him in 1963. Mr Karlow,

who is now 71, confirmed in The New York Times yesterday that he had been the prime suspect. When he provided alibis for his alleged meetings with Russians in East Germany, his interrogators said only a true spy could devise such good cover.

Similar compensation has been secretly paid to Paul Garbler, the CIA's first station chief in Moscow, and to Richard Kovich, who recruited Soviet agents for the agency. A CIA spokesman confirmed that officers had been compensated but declined to give details.

According to Mr Wise, who researched the matter for ten years, the damage inflicted by the suspicions of James Angleton, the CIA's late counter-espionage chief, was far more extensive than previously reported. Up to the mid-1980s, fear of double agents caused the CIA to reject approaches by KGB and other Soviet officials whose information would have been invaluable, Mr Wise

says in Molehunt: the Secret Search for Traitors that Shattered the CIA.

The mole panic began in 1961, when Anatoliy Golitsyn, a KGB officer who became one of the best-known Soviet defectors, told the CIA that there was a highly-placed mole in its midst. His code-name was Sasha, he had worked in West Germany and his true name began with K. Mr Karlow was the first suspect because he matched the biography and because he had been involved in a US-British project to devise a tiny surveillance device. Golitsyn reported that the KGB had details of the project. The Russians had, the CIA later learned, been tipped off not by an American but by George Blake, the British traitor.

"Because of pervasive suspicions that prevailed at the time, the CIA was paralysed at the height of the Cold War," Mr Wise says. The CIA never found a mole and all the men it accused were loyal officers.

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British
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THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

Ashdown sees anxious Kinnock as the man most likely to

LIBERAL Democrat leaders now believe that their best hope of achieving a coalition deal to increase their power base in British politics will come if the Tories emerge as the biggest single party in a hung parliament.

Paddy Ashdown will go into the election declaring himself "equidistant" from the two main parties and ready to work with either, although he does not believe there will be a deal on offer from John Major.

If the Tories emerge as the largest party but without an overall majority, Mr Ashdown believes that he can "make Labour sweat" because Neil Kinnock will be anxious to get the Tories out before the long-awaited economic recovery takes hold. Senior Liberal Democrat claim they have been approached by Labour MPs asking nervously: "You wouldn't really do a deal with them, would you?"

Liberal Democrat planners say two other factors will put pressure on Mr Kinnock. First, Boundary Commission constituency

As the Liberal Democrats prepare for the forthcoming election, Robin Oakley assesses the price for support they might exact from Labour

changes are expected to hand the Tories up to 20 seats at Labour's expense before an election after 1994.

Second, any move to a Scottish parliament under a future Tory government is likely to be accompanied by a reduction in the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster. Since Labour has 48 of the present 72, that too would benefit the Conservatives.

Labour were not to win power there is the likelihood of a nationalist backlash in Scotland, which would harm the party's prospects north of the Border. For those reasons, Mr Ashdown and his colleagues believe Mr Kinnock will be a man in a hurry. He will want Liberal Democrat assistance in voting down a minority Conservative government as soon as possible, and that will give Mr Ashdown's party the leverage to exact a good price for

its support. Liberal Democrats see a growing tide in Labour's ranks in favour of proportional representation at Westminster, their basic condition for a deal.

The Liberal Democrats, deeply experienced in "hung council" deals in local government, also take heart from their tactics on the Scottish constitutional convention. Malcolm Bruce, their Scottish leader, insisted from the outset that proportional representation must be the electoral system for any Scottish parliament, and was told that his intransigence would wreck the hopes of any deal with Labour. But Labour came round to PR for the Scottish assembly.

Now the Liberal Democrats, at some risk to their party unity, are saying that they would not support a Labour government offering home rule for Scotland unless they were promised PR for West-

minster as well. Outwardly they argue that that is the only way to ensure that a future Conservative government would not take away any Scottish assembly set up by Labour with their support. But there are deeper reasons: among them lack of trust.

Mr Ashdown and his team, watching Mr Kinnock and his advisers edging towards PR, appearing to favour it without actually committing their party, do not trust Labour to deliver. That is why they will not settle for a Speaker's convention or any other convention to look at the PR question, or even for a referendum. They are insisting on legislation for electoral reform "preferably in the first Queen's Speech".

They have been encouraged by the growing public support indicated in opinion polls for coalition government. The party's own qualitative polling has shown that supporters of other parties want to see more than one party co-operating in government, and that Labour support-

ers in particular are reluctant to trust their own party on its own.

PR is not the Liberal Democrats' only concern in coalition negotiations. Although nothing else will be presented as a sticking point, they would also insist, with any party, on an employment package to counter the effects of the recession.

They would be pushing for an independent central bank to help Britain prepare for full monetary union. They would insist on an agreed programme for a full four-year parliament, not wishing to be exploited by a Labour prime minister ready to cast them aside and run for power on his own at the first favourable moment. They will be demanding in any negotiation at least one cabinet position and others down the line, seeking working involvement at all levels of government.

Mr Ashdown privately acknowledges that he is unlikely to be asked to join a coalition initially, and that both main parties are likely to try to govern as a minority. But his party is ready to



Ashdown: encouraged by support for a coalition

fight what it will then see as a propaganda war, saying that it is illegitimate for either major party to seize power on two fifths of the popular vote and a minority of parliamentary seats.

By campaigning on that theme before helping to bring down one of those minority governments, the Liberal Democrats believe that they would escape any blame

for precipitating a further election. But the party's MPs remain nervous that they would lose votes between two elections held close together, as their Liberal predecessors did in 1974.

Mr Bruce, urged the people of Scotland to "rise up and drive out the Tories," at his party's conference in Glasgow. He said: "Every Tory candidate in Scotland must be soundly defeated to force Scottish home rule and the reform of the UK to the top of the agenda."

He said those who took positions on quangoes appointed by the Conservative secretary of state, like Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Funding Council for Higher Education, were quislings.

"What else do you call people appointed by a government overwhelmingly rejected by the people and implementing policies the people had made clear at every opportunity they did not support? True democrats would refuse to serve on such bodies until we had reformed our system of government," he said.

Clarke blames policy after crash

Ministers admit to economic mistakes

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT ministers yesterday tried to distance themselves from the Conservatives' monetary policy in the late 1980s, by conceding that economic errors had been made after the 1987 stock market crash.

While not directly criticising Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, both Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, and John MacGregor, the Commons leader, admitted there had been "one or two mistakes".

Mr Clarke admitted that the Conservative party had made

misjudgments in its monetary policy in the 1980s, by lowering interest rates after the 1987 Stock Exchange crash, and failing to predict the credit explosion after financial deregulation.

Speaking on the *Walden* programme on London Weekend Television, he defended the government's fiscal policy of tax cuts in the budgets of 1987 and 1988 but suggested that the government should have been tougher on interest rates.

"The tax cuts in 1987 were a good thing. With hindsight, however, these measures should have been combined with tighter monetary policy," he said. "We made an error of judgment after the Stock Exchange crash. We did not see quite what was happening."

"With hindsight we wrongly combined this fiscal policy [of tax cuts] alongside lower interest rates after the stock market crash and failing to put up interest rates fast enough after the credit boom got under way." Mr Clarke admitted that the government was "struggling" to come out of the recession but said the country was now in a good position to do so.

No apology was due from the government, Mr Clarke said. "Most of our judgement has been correct. Most of our budgets have been beneficial. The errors of monetary policy were not the cause of the recession and we are now well poised to come out of recession."

Mr MacGregor said that with hindsight there were "one or two mistakes" which could be seen more clearly. "The [monetary] conditions

were just a bit too easy after the stock market crash."

Both Mr Clarke and Mr MacGregor hinted at tax cuts in the Budget and higher public borrowing to pay for increased spending on health, education and transport.

Asked whether borrowing in a recession should be used only to finance the increasing cost of unemployment, Mr MacGregor said that it should also be used on capital spending programmes and the health service. Mr MacGregor said on BBC TV's *On the Record*: "Continuing to do the investment on things like the road programme, school-building programme etc — these are all very important."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, defended the use of borrowing to finance tax cuts or to increase spending on public services.

A new Conservative government would return the municipal map to its "older traditions", the prime minister said at the weekend in a speech that seemed to seal the fate of unloved county councils from Humberside to Avon.

Local people would decide how they wanted to be governed at local level, John Major told the Conservative local government conference in London. "We are not seeking to impose any single blueprint. But I don't believe that some of the bodies created in the 1970s have captured public loyalty," Mr Major said.

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Playing for laughs: Dudley Moore conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra in rehearsal for a concert of his music at Golders Green, northwest London

Thatcher defied Reagan on Falklands

By BILL PROST

MARGARET Thatcher "handbagged" Ronald Reagan during the Falklands conflict when he tried persuading her to call off the final push for Port Stanley, according to American National Security Council files.

President Reagan had telephoned Downing Street to broker a Brazilian peace plan calling for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Argentine forces and the deployment of neutral peacekeepers, according to a transcript discovered by researchers on the BBC2 *Timewatch* programme. A furious Mrs Thatcher indicated bluntly that the boundaries of their special relationship were finite.

"I did not lose some of my best ships and some of my finest lives to leave quietly under a ceasefire without the Argentines withdrawing," the former prime minister had declared. Warning to her theme, she added: "You are surely not asking me, Ron... that after the Argentine withdrawal, that our forces and our administration become immediately idle? I had to go to immense distances and mobilise half my country."

The conversation on May 31, 1982, took place as British forces celebrated the capture of Goose Green from the Argentines and prepared to move on Stanley. Mr Reagan was concerned that a victory for Mrs Thatcher could be perceived as colonial aggression, supported by the United States.

Mrs Thatcher was not impressed by the president's anxiety. "I just wonder if anyone, over there realises, I would like to ask them. Just supposing Alaska was invaded."

Tory in election challenge to Hurd

Douglas Hurd the foreign secretary is to be challenged in the general election by the membership secretary of his local Conservative association who is protesting at the government's attitude towards Britons imprisoned overseas.

Marilyn Brown, aged 46, will stand as an independent candidate in Witney, Oxfordshire, representing the newly formed pressure group "Fair Trials Abroad" which aims to highlight the plight of Britons in foreign jails. Mrs Brown's son Nicholas, aged 20, has been imprisoned in Goa for the past 14 months accused of possessing 15 grammes of hashish. He denies the charge, which carries a minimum sentence of ten years.

Mrs Brown says that the Foreign Office has not helped him for fear of upsetting the authorities in India and Goa. "You believe that if it happens to you, our government will go to great lengths to right the wrongs and get you home," she said. "But rarely will anything be done to assist anyone, no matter how young and unworthy they may be, beyond handing them a list of hopefully reliable local lawyers and wishing them luck."

Kasparov clings to chess lead

Gary Kasparov, the world chess champion, maintained his lead in the ninth round of the International Chess Tournament in Linares, Spain, with a draw against his closest rival, Alexander Beliavski, the Russian grandmaster.

Kasparov has six-and-a-half points out of nine with four rounds still to be played. Beliavski has six and the former world champion Anatoly Karpov has five-and-a-half. In London, Oxford University beat Cambridge University 6-2 in the traditional annual match between the two teams.

Budget papers threatened

An overtime ban and work-to-rule action by Stationery Office staff, beginning today, may disrupt administrative preparations for tomorrow's Budget. Two civil service unions are protesting at a 4.7 per cent pay offer.

Eddie Spence, national officer of the Civil and Public Services Association, said: "The action could disrupt the publication of material relating to the Budget. Without our goodwill there may be difficulties ensuring material goes out on time. Our goodwill has been withdrawn. The latest offer is insulting."

Murder hunt

Police will mingle with commuters today in an attempt to find witnesses to the killing of Manzula Amlani, who was raped and murdered as she was walking to her home on Thursday night after leaving a train at Bagshot station. Surrey. Mrs Amlani, aged 44, was found with her throat cut in an alley near the station. A pair of blood-stained goalkeeper's gloves and a knife have been found.

Editor in coma

Sir Larry Lamb, former editor of *The Sun* and *Daily Express*, is still seriously ill in an Australian hospital. He collapsed in Sydney on Thursday hours before he was due to watch England play Australia in cricket's World Cup. St Vincent Hospital said he was in a coma on a life-support machine and his condition remained critical but stable. His wife and a son are at the hospital.

Opposition woos third-party voters with promise to hold PR enquiry

NEIL KINNOCK is to make a direct attempt to attract centre-party voters with an election manifesto pledge to establish a government-backed enquiry into the Westminster voting system.

The move has been agreed by the Labour leader and Roy Hattersley, his deputy, and could have acute significance if the election produces a hung parliament. Labour sources have confirmed that the Plant committee, its working party on electoral reform set up two years ago, would be upgraded to a government enquiry. It would be similar to the constitutional convention in which the parties in Scotland have together discussed their electoral system.

Senior Labour sources have disclosed that the committee, chaired by Raymond Plant, whose members include Margaret Beckett, Bryan Gould and Jo Richardson, and Labour PR enthusiasts such as Jeff Rooker, would have its membership broadened to include business, the churches and trade unions. Consideration would be given by Labour in government to putting members of other parties on the committee.

The move falls far short of the Liberal Democrat demand in the event of a hung parliament that legislation on PR should be the price of co-operation, but it marks an astonishing turnaround in Labour's attitude to PR. As recently as 1983 Mr Kin-

The grassroots campaign in the Labour party to change the Westminster voting system is traced by Philip Webster

nock, whose mind has seemed more open on PR than many of his leadership colleagues, was saying that it could bring disproportionate government. Three election defeats, the last two by landslides, have concentrated the minds of Labour members workers.

A formidable grassroots campaign has been under way since the 1987 election, undoubtedly fuelled by fears that the party might never on its own form a majority government again. There were also worries that Labour stands to lose some 15 seats under the next boundary review.

It was, ironically, a wish to avoid looking defeatist that has kept the leadership wary of allying itself to PR. A campaign from the bottom has cut across the usual left-right old guard against new guard battle-lines. The poll tax brought many Labour politicians into the fold. They bought the argument that a tax so despised by a big majority of the population could never have been introduced under PR.

Paradoxically, the Plant committee, set up by the Labour conference two years ago, began its life as a device to avoid decisions on PR — and a likely internal row — having to be made before the election.

The committee has already recommended a form of PR for elections to the Scottish assembly. Labour's promised London authority is also expected to be chosen



Beckett and Richardson: on Plant committee

Ulster intelligence tactics reviewed

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED MI5 officer is due in Belfast this week to begin a review of intelligence-gathering in Northern Ireland.

The secret enquiry could lead to the appointment of a powerful security co-ordinator responsible for supervising all anti-terrorist operations in Ulster. The prime minister is said to be convinced that a shake-up is needed in intelligence gathering in the province.

John Major, army chiefs and other key figures are concerned that the IRA is still able to plant bombs in the middle of Belfast and attack targets in the heart of Whitehall.

One option being suggested is to make MI5 the lead agency in combating the IRA. The old guard in MI5 is thought to be against that proposal, believing that the principal intelligence role in Northern Ireland should be left to the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

A senior MI5 officer holds the post of director and co-ordinator of intelligence, based at Stormont. But his role is to act as chairman of a special security committee that meets regularly. He is responsible for ensuring that all the intelligence-gathering agencies are working to the same end.

That post may now be expanded to become a more important appointment, with the chosen director empowered, by legislation if necessary, to issue directives

to all the intelligence agencies and to make policy decisions.

The main agencies involved in intelligence gathering in Ulster are the RUC's special branch, the army's force reconnaissance unit, part of the Intelligence Corps; MI5; MI6, the secret intelligence service; and GCHQ, the government's communications organisation, which provides electronic eavesdropping.

While it is wrong to suggest that those different agencies are working independently of each other, the government now believes that a director of intelligence with new powers and with a strong personality is required to combat the IRA.

In 1979, the late Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6, was sent to Belfast by Margaret Thatcher to be security co-ordinator, after accusations that the different agencies were at loggerheads. His influence helped to break down many of the rivalries between the intelligence-gathering services.

When Sir Maurice became ill and returned to London, he was succeeded as security co-ordinator by Sir Brooks Richards. The present director of intelligence has never been named.

MI5, now under the leadership of Stella Rimington as director general, is expected to be charged with much greater responsibility for counter-terrorism both in Ulster and on the mainland.

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Sister Superior



High hopes: Billy Liles takes off at the British motocross championships at Swanley, Kent, yesterday while a well armoured enthusiast stays earth-bound



Law students back reform of judiciary

The next generation of lawyers generally holds conservative views but with some surprising exceptions, Frances Gibb finds

The next generation of lawyers overwhelmingly wants reform of the system of judicial appointments, does not support strike action over legal aid pay and favours practising criminal litigation over company and commercial law, according to a survey of nearly 700 students.

It sees European integration and the influence of the European Commission and European Court of Justice as the most significant issue for lawyers and the legal system in the next decade. The criminal justice system in England and Wales and its lack of confidence is rated as far less significant, with 66 per cent in last month's survey believing that only "moderate" reform is needed, or that it is satisfactory.

The survey, processed by Mori for *The Times*, was based on a questionnaire to students attending this year's Law Fair, sponsored by the newspaper and organised by London University's careers advisory service. It highlights differences between the views of students planning to enter the law and people in the profession.

Students' answers were often conservative. Only 29 per cent backed strike action by solicitors over legal aid; fewer than half favoured a common training for solicitors and barristers; and only one third favoured a fundamental overhaul of the criminal justice system. But 70 per cent favoured change in the system for appointing judges, 87 per cent wanted more women judges and 82 per cent more judges from ethnic minorities.

Despite concern in the profession about legal aid, 32 per cent picked criminal litigation as their favoured area of work, with 29 per cent for company and commercial law, and 18 per cent for civil litigation.

These results came as lawyers demanded the right to legal aid to be extended to more people, and an end to the denial of access to justice. As the number of those who qualify for legal aid fell to less than 20 million, the Law Society called for urgent action from Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, when he announces the increase in qualifying incomes this week. The society says that the eligibility limit has risen 56 per cent since 1979, while average earnings have risen 190 per cent.

John Appleby, the chairman of the society's courts and legal services committee, said: "There are millions who are far too poor to afford the full cost of their case, but still do not qualify for legal aid."

Seventeen per cent in the survey chose European law as their favoured area of work. Big City of London firms were the target of 22 per cent, medium City or West End firms were preferred by 31 per cent, and large provincial practices were sought by 31 per cent. Twelve per cent favoured a small legal aid or family practice, indicating perhaps that, while the prospect of legal aid work is popular, students want to practise in a medium firm, not a dedicated small legal aid firm.

Work seems more important than money. The kind of work was cited by 94 per cent as influencing their final decision a great deal or a fair amount, against nearly 70 per cent citing post-qualification salary.

Avrom Sherr, director of education at the City Law firm Macfarlanes, which helped devise the survey, said the impression was that the students were not radical, which made their backing of reform on judges' selection more striking. "This has clearly now become the point of view of the mid-range liberal," he said.

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Repossessions firm exploits tax incentives

Major studies prospectus of property speculator

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE prime minister is examining the company prospectus of a high-flying property speculator who plans to exploit tax incentives to raise £5 million for a raid on the auction market on lucrative repossessed homes.

John Major called for a copy after being told in the Commons that the business activities of Pathfinder Repossessions, which qualify for tax relief under the government's Business Expansion Scheme (BES), represent a squalid use of BES funds to promote a trade in the misfortunes of the homeless.

Two City figures at the centre of the controversial enterprise are Mark Andrew Vully de Candole, the company's managing director, and his financial sponsor, Charles Fry, aged 52, chairman of Johnson Fry Corporate Finance. Mr Fry has already raised £1.83 million of private investors' money for Pathfinder Repossessions in the past three weeks.

Mr de Candole, aged 38, who has 12 years' experience in the development of property in central London, wants to raise the £5 million by offering potential investors substantial tax relief through the BES. He is offering yields of at least 13.5 per cent a year on income through letting the repossessed properties and initial increases in capital value of over 25 per cent after they have been refurbished.

The BES, introduced in 1983 as the successor to the Business Start-up Scheme, aims to encourage individuals to invest up to £40,000 a year in small and growing businesses by offering relief at their highest income tax rate on the amount invested. In addition, shares issued are exempt from Capital Gains Tax if held for five years. Investors in the property scheme are also attracted by the recent suspension of stamp duty until August.

Tim Villiers, chief executive of the BES Association, the

scheme's watchdog, emphasised that the venture was entirely within the rules. "Pathfinder Repossessions are not putting people out of their homes. I have reservations about the use of the word repossessions in the name of the company. It's a personal moral scruple because I don't like the image it creates. It might be seen that BES were profiting from people's misfortune."

Mr de Candole rose to City prominence after setting up City Gate Estates property company in 1985 through a BES issue sponsored by Johnson Fry which raised almost £3 million. With James Gulliver, the chairman, Mr de Candole, the managing director, brought City Gate Estates to the unlisted securities market in 1988. It was sold to Swedish investment company Accura for £22 million in 1990, making a 600 per cent profit for top-rate taxpayers.

Mr de Candole, a figure of passing interest to gossip columnists, also holds directorships in Pathfinder Properties, which in the first half of 1991 raised £1.5 million to buy property in central London, Landmark Films, Wilton Asset Management, and Blenheim Asset Management. He said: "First time buyer repossession property in London offers a greater opportunity to make capital

gains than any other sector of the property market."

Mr de Candole, who is raising the money to buy from the annual stock of 85,000 cut-price, vacant, repossessed houses at auction, will receive no salary under the Pathfinder Repossessions venture. But his firm of property consultants, Blenheim Asset Management, will receive an annual management fee of 1 per cent of funds raised under the issue, charge a fee of 1 per cent of the total cost of each property bought and a similar fee when each is sold. Blenheim will also charge a management fee for refurbishment by Pathfinder, amounting to 4 per cent of the cost. Mr de Candole is the sole listed director.

BES rules prevent investors "closely connected with the company" obtaining financial relief. Mr de Candole is investing in the scheme £40,000, allowed at his own money. But because his fees will be deducted, Blenheim Asset Management, he can claim the relief, according to the BES Association. BES rules will allow properties bought by Pathfinder Repossessions to be sold off after four years though shareholders must wait five years to qualify for the tax relief.

In the prospectus, Mr de Candole says the "achievement of a successful exit route

is of prime importance to investors after five years" and lists three options: a merger of the company with Pathfinder Properties and stock market flotation; sale of the company to a third party; sale of the individual properties and "appropriate distribution to shareholders". He writes: "I believe that we shall look back and say the 1992 residential repossessions market was the outstanding property buying opportunity... with the added benefit of BES tax relief."

Mr Villiers, for BES, said: "I looked at the prospectus and thought Andrew de Candole might be seen to be cleaning up through Blenheim Asset Management. But if as an investor that sticks in the throat and you think he is getting too much for his return, you don't have to invest with him."

Mr Major was invited by John Garrett, Labour MP for Norwich South, to condemn the proposal as an inappropriate use of tax relief when the government is pressing lenders to curb repossessions. Mr Garrett said: "This is a squalid exercise, legal even though it is ghastly."

Pathfinder Repossessions was incorporated on January 22, 1991, having changed its name from Johnson Fry Fine Inns of Distinction No 6 plc. It will be sponsored by Johnson Fry Corporate Finance, the largest BES sponsor. Its chairman is Charles Fry. As sponsor, he is a director of Pathfinder Repossessions. Johnson Fry will charge 6 per cent of the monies raised by Pathfinder, of which 3 per cent will be paid to "recognised introducers" of capital.

Mr Fry told *The Times*: "Pathfinder Repossessions is not doing anything different from what a lot of people are doing at auctions. They are buying property on the market. There's nothing wrong with buying repossessed property. It will be let out under short tenancies to increase their availability."

Police enlist FBI in murder hunt

By RONALD FAUX

LANCASHIRE police have enlisted the help of the FBI in their search for the murderers of David Wilson, aged 47, an accountant who was executed in the garage of his home near Brinscall, Lancashire, on Thursday.

In their investigation of Mr Wilson's business affairs detectives from Lancashire have asked the FBI to make enquiries in north and south America.

It is understood that Mr Wilson had been questioned by police about insurance on a cargo of cigarettes. A man arrested in Scotland and taken to Lancashire on Saturday for questioning is believed to have had business connections with Mr Wilson.

When the man was arrested in The Netherlands in connection with the cigarette shipment, it was Mr Wilson who stood bail for him. Detective Superintendent Bob Denmark, who is leading the enquiry, said: "I do not regard the arrest as being in any way the conclusion of the enquiry. It may only be a starting point for a whole new line of enquiry."

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Tramp hid hoard in his socks

A VAGRANT known as John the Baptist, who had frequented London Underground so long that nobody remembered the origin of his nickname, had walked away with a snop. Only after he died of a heart attack last week at Embankment station, where he slept rough for 20 years, was the reason for his gift discovered (Michael Horsnell writes).

John, aged about 70, was found to be carrying £1,500, much of it in coins and hidden in his socks. The money, takings from a begging career in the station foyer, took three police officers more than an hour to count.

Inspector Howard Park said yesterday: "It weighed a ton. It is quite incredible to think what he was carrying around all this time. He was very popular because of his cheerful nature."

Police think that his name was John Gray because of a 21-year-old prescription in his pocket and that he probably came from Scotland, because of a slight accent.

Asthma scientists blame starch particle for misery

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS say they have pinpointed the substance in grass pollen that brings misery to millions of asthma sufferers every spring.

The researchers have identified microscopic particles, made of starch, that are small enough to enter a person's air passages. Tests show that they trigger an asthmatic attack. Each pollen grain carries more than 700 of the starch granules.

The research, by medical and botanical scientists in Australia, has found that the particles are released during thunderstorms and rain by a process known as osmotic shock. Moisture in the air causes the pollen grains to swell and explode, leading to a 50 fold increase in atmospheric concentrations of starch particles.

Tests on patients confirmed that it was the starch particles rather than the pollen which triggers wheezing and constriction of the lungs and leads to a condition which kills 2,000 people a

year in Britain. The findings, published in *The Lancet*, offer the hope of a new generation of drugs that are tailored to tackle the starch particles. News of the Australian team's findings comes as British scientists are claiming an important advance in the treatment of asthma and other allergies.

Julian Hopkin and William Cookson, of the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals in Oxford, believe they might be within months of discovering the single gene that makes one in ten people vulnerable to asthma attacks as well as hay fever and possibly eczema. Last year, they confirmed that they had tracked down the allergy gene to chromosome 11, one of the 23 pairs of chromosomes in the body which carry an estimated 100,000 genes.

At that time, they knew that the gene was one of 1,000. The researchers announced yesterday that they

had cut the number of genes that might control asthmatic attacks to about 100.

Dr Cookson said it was possible that the research, funded by the Wellcome Trust, the medical charity which announced last week that it was planning a £4.8 billion share offering, might find the crucial gene within five months.

The research, part of a world-wide effort to map the genetic codes of life and pinpoint their individual functions, is aimed at eventually developing drugs which replace faulty or missing genes.

It might be possible to inject into someone's lungs copies of the healthy gene which may make asthma sufferers less vulnerable to such airborne substances as starch particles.

John Warner, professor of child care at Southampton general hospital, estimates that half Britain's child asthma victims are not diagnosed or treated properly.

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Surcharges up to £69 threaten fresh rebellion

New poll tax averages £270

THE new poll tax bills in England will average £270 if the trend set by more than three-quarters of councils is followed over the next few days. Surcharges to make up for those who do not pay the tax will average £13 a head.

Charge payers in Labour-controlled Manchester will each have to pay £69 more to compensate for non-payers. There will be surcharges of £63 in Leicester, £57 in Haringey, £52 in Brighton, £49 in Leeds and Rochdale, £48 in Salford and £45 in Plymouth, prompting fears of a fresh rebellion against the additional charges.

A study by *The Times* of poll tax bills set by 311 of the 405 councils that levy the community charge in England, Wales, the largest

The *Times* has completed the biggest independent survey of the bills due next month. Despite an average increase within the margin ministers wanted, Douglas Broom forecasts an outcry

independent survey, has found that individual bills will rise by an average of 12.8 per cent. The average for England is £13 above the government target of £257, an increase of 7.5 per cent on this year's average of £251. It is within the limits suggested by Michael Portillo, the local government minister, who said that the government would be happy if bills averaged "within £10 or £15" of the official target.

If England and Wales are taken together, the average poll tax set so far is £266, although this is a less significant figure because the grant

system keeps bills lower in Wales, where they average £131, a rise of 28 per cent.

The Labour party last night produced its own figures suggesting that the average in England would be £279, an increase of 11.4 per cent on this year and 8.9 per cent above the government's target. According to Labour, the average charge in Wales will be £248, a rise of 22.7 per cent on this year.

The *Times* survey found that the steepest rises will be in the metropolitan areas of the Midlands and the North,

where bills will rise on average by 15.9 per cent to £300. In London, the poll tax levels that have already been increased represent an average rise over this year's of 8.3 per cent to £224, attributable largely to tougher poll tax capping rules introduced by the government.

Some borough councils in the capital will reduce the size of bills from April, with Labour-controlled Haringey planning the largest cut of 8.5 per cent, from £419 to £394, to avoid being capped. In shire areas where 262 of the 296 districts have declared their charges for the financial year beginning April 1992, the average bill is £270, an increase of 12.2 per cent on this year. The figures shown in the table exclude additional precepts levied by parish councils, which will inflate bills in some parts of the country by more than £30 a head.

Some of the biggest percentage rises are in Wales. South Pembrokeshire district is putting its charge up by 58 per cent from £76 to £120, and Ceredigion, Dyfed, by 51 per cent, from £90 to £136. The political debate over percentages is likely to be acrimonious. The Opposition cites the figure produced by averaging individual council increases, 12.2 per cent, while ministers will emphasise the year-on-year rise of 7.5 per cent.

Council	Party	Poll tax 1992 £	Change %	Non-payer surcharge £
London boroughs				
Barking	Lab	210	23.5	10
Bromley	Con	218	14.7	0
City	Con	180	2.9	n/a
Croydon	Con	220	22.2	19
Enfield	Con	276	11.0	18
Hammersmith	Lab	264	12.2	12
Haringey	Lab	384	-8.5	57
Harrow	Con	278	15.9	22
Havering	Lab	274	15.7	17
Kingston	Con	268	7.2	3
Merton	Lab	257	-4.5	0
Redbridge	Con	250	-2.0	9
Richmond	Lab	278	-0.3	21
Southwark	Lab	188	1.9	1
Sutton	SLD	271	-4.4	14
Tower Hamlets	SLD	208	-1.5	n/a
Wandsworth	Con	268	0.0	0
Westminster	Con	36	0.0	n/a
Averages		224	8.3	16
Metropolitan districts				
Birmingham	Lab	295	10.9	24
Bradford	Lab	278	22.8	24
Bury	Lab	315	6.5	30
Calderdale	Lab	218	21.8	22
Coventry	Lab	342	19.9	22
Dudley	Lab	301	8.4	n/a
Gateshead	Lab	271	20.0	15
Kirklees	Lab	248	4.4	21
Leeds	Lab	313	15.0	46
Manchester	Lab	338	15.7	69
Newcastle	Lab	349	10.4	36
Oldham	Lab	298	7.8	28
Rochdale	Lab	338	9.7	48
Salford	Lab	328	9.0	48
Sandwell	Lab	319	0.0	36
Sefton	Lab	315	11.7	43
Sth Tyneside	Lab	283	29.0	15
Sunderland	Lab	277	28.8	22
Tameside	Lab	348	28.0	49
Tratford	Lab	348	11.5	12
Wolverhampton	Lab	317	15.3	28
Averages		300	15.9	31

Shire districts				
Adur	SLD	280	5.7	19
Allerdale	Lab	247	18.7	4
Alnwick	SLD	285	11.0	-6
Amber Valley	Lab	298	41.5	9
Arundel	Con	227	4.0	-6
Ashford	Con	342	39.0	1
Aylesbury Vale	Con	224	7.3	-2
Babergh	NOC	246	9.5	14
Barnard	Con	303	9.8	28
Basingstoke	Con	232	26.3	24
Bassetlaw	Lab	291	-1.7	16
Bath	NOC	251	2.7	0
Barnwick	Lab	258	7.4	15
Beverley	Con	307	7.4	15
Blaby	Con	254	13.0	17
Blackburn	Lab	329	14.8	34
Blackpool	Lab	340	15.6	41
Blyth Valley	Lab	335	13.5	23
Bolsover	Lab	236	11.5	18
Boothferry	NOC	246	20.0	0
Boston	NOC	232	22.0	7
Bournemouth	NOC	289	22.5	17
Bracknell	Con	214	-6.5	5
Braine	Con	254	19.8	20
Brigholme	SLD	237	3.6	9
Bridgford	Lab	256	21.6	16
Brighton	Lab	330	29.5	52
Broadland	Lab	248	9.0	10
Broxbourne	Con	242	9.8	0
Burnley	Lab	282	25.4	30
Cambridge	Lab	349	8.2	4
Canoe Chase	Lab	284	1.1	4
Canterbury	NOC	258	33.0	9
Cardon	Con	264	11.9	0
Carlisle	SLD	270	8.0	21
Castle Morphet	NOC	313	3.0	-6
Castle Point	Con	273	26.9	36
Charnwood	Con	294	13.1	17
Chelmsford	Con	258	15.0	15
Cheltenham	SLD	330	20.0	34
Chester-St	Lab	301	11.9	14
Cherwell	Con	207	12.0	14
Chichester	Con	198	18.5	7
Chorley	Lab	307	5.3	26
Christchurch	Lab	240	11.5	17
Cleethorpe	Lab	329	18.2	4
Congleton	NOC	313	8.8	15
Copeland	Lab	275	20.0	12
Corby	Lab	275	18.2	7
Cotswold	Ind	260	18.2	7
Craven	NOC	217	31.0	-4
Crawley	Lab	250	6.4	8
Crew	Lab	324	4.0	16
Darlington	Con	300	9.0	20
Derby	NOC	294	8.9	21
Derwentside	Lab	288	4.4	n/a
Dover	NOC	254	34.5	2
Durham	Lab	301	8.7	18
Easington	Lab	258	19.1	17
Eastbourne	SLD	320	18.8	27
East Cambs	Ind	245	13.8	14
East Devon	Con	241	1.3	-16
East Dorset	Con	267	8.5	-1
East Herts	SLD	272	21.9	26
East Herts	Con	249	8.0	0
Eastleigh	NOC	282	15.3	27
East Northants	Con	274	13.7	5
East Staffs	Lab	270	12.6	13
Eden	Ind	287	24.2	-14
Ellesmere Pt	Lab	337	8.8	23
Elmbridge	Con	331	-2.3	15
Epping Forest	Con	271	10.2	23
Epsom	Lab	296	-8.5	21
Erewash	Lab	305	11.3	11
Exeter	Lab	257	8.4	10
Fareham	Con	227	1.0	-5
Farnham	Con	258	10.3	2
Forest Heath	NOC	230	6.0	4
Forest of Dean	Lab	300	14.0	11
Fyfe	NOC	280	5.0	0
Gillingham	Con	239	38.0	6
Gloucester	Lab	279	6.7	18
Gosport	SLD	258	5.0	7
Gravesham	NOC	331	51.0	7
Great Grimsby	Lab	338	16.5	10
Grays	Lab	292	13.0	34
Haltwhistle	Lab	348	6.0	35
Hampden	Con	214	12.7	13
Harrow	NOC	274	3.2	13
Harrow	SLD	301	-5.5	5
Harrowgate	SLD	295	16.2	24
Hart	NOC	233	3.9	5
Hartlepool	Lab	322	8.5	19
Hastings	NOC	274	0.0	-1
Havant	Con	255	11.2	19
Hereford	SLD	258	21.5	3
Hertsmere	Con	252	12.0	6
High Peak	NOC	311	19.0	20
Hilary	Con	250	22.0	-1
Holderness	Ind	310	9.7	18
Horsham	Con	225	14.4	12
Hove	Con	270	37.0	34
Hull	Lab	294	27.8	34
Huntingdon	Lab	213	5.4	5
Hyndburn	Lab	278	14.4	17
Ipswich	Lab	320	-1.2	18
Kennet	SLD	235	10.4	0
Kettering	NOC	274	12.0	14
Kettering	NOC	257	12.5	0
Kings Lynn	Con	232	13.6	-1
Lancaster	Lab	310	11.1	15
Lancashire	Lab	376	13.3	36
Leicester	Lab	351	10.0	63
Leominster	Ind	241	18.8	0

April 1992, the average bill is £270, an increase of 12.2 per cent on this year. The figures shown in the table exclude additional precepts levied by local councils which are used to fund a number of services which inflate bills in some parts of the country by more than £30 a head.

Some of the biggest percentage rises are in Wales. South Pembrokeshire district is putting its charge up by 38 per cent, from £258 to £356 and Ceredigion, Dyfed, by 51 per cent, from £90 to £136.

The political debate over percentages is likely to be acrimonious. The Opposition cites the figure produced by averaging individual council increases of 12.2 per cent, while ministers will emphasise the year-on-year rise of 7.5 per cent.

Consumers quick to complain

Protests double over tasteless adverts

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

COMPLAINTS about tasteless, indecent and misleading advertising last year passed 10,000 for the first time, prompting the Advertising Standards Authority to call for greater vigilance in the profession.

Some advertising industry firms were still flouting the rules of the self-regulatory body, Sir Timothy Raison, its chairman, said. Consumers had proved they were more willing than ever to complain about offensive material.

The Benetton poster of a newborn baby still attached to the umbilical cord prompted a record 800 complaints, contributing to a 100 per cent rise in protests about tasteless and indecent advertisements received by the authority last year.

Caroline Crawford, an authority spokesman, said: "Benetton pushed our statistics out completely. The number of advertisements people complained about has actually declined from 628 in 1990

to 552 last year. There is just more public concern about taste and decency. People just won't put up with tasteless advertising."

The authority recorded in its annual report a disturbing rise in advertisements for bogus health products and quack medicines, and called on publishers to protect readers by rejecting advertisements for such products. Sir Timothy said: "We do have to keep up the pressure. There are cowboys around. We have to be constantly on the lookout to see that our rulings are accepted."

The figures come days after the authority put pressure on Maiden Outdoor, the billboard company, to drop plans to show Benetton's latest campaign featuring pictures of a terrorist car bomb and an African soldier holding a human thigh bone. The authority said that both posters would cause offence. Francis Goodwin, Maiden's marketing consultant, said

that although his company did not agree, it was more important to uphold the authority's position than to run the campaign.

Tactics used by timeshare companies were also causing concern, as were so-called business opportunity advertisements, designed to entice unemployed people to pay big registration fees in return for often useless information. However, many advertisers had stopped making misleading ecology claims for products, and were showing an increasingly more responsible attitude, the authority said.

The number of complaints rose by 700 to 10,610 last year, the report said. About a third were considered worth pursuing, and 2,416 were upheld. Nearly a quarter concerned taste and decency, and 1,361 of those were upheld. There were 373 complaints about the portrayal of women, of which 101 were upheld.



Inside art: Lord Longford, a regular prison visitor, shows off a painting by Eddie Richardson, the Sixties south London gang leader now at Full Sutton prison, Humberside, for a drug smuggling offence

Britain 'neglects arthritis'

Arthritis is a neglected disease in Britain, although it affects about 20 million people, with six to eight million needing drugs or joint replacement (Nigel Hawkes writes). The Office of Health Economics (OHE), estimates in a report today that it costs Britain £1,200 million a year and more than 40 million lost working days.

Mandy Wyles, an OHE research associate and the report's author, says it is surprising arthritis is not mentioned in the government's consultative document, *The Health of the Nation*.

She says provision of rheumatologists falls short of the standard of one to 150,000 people set by the World Health Organisation, the health department and the Royal College of Physicians.

Airbase protest

A peace demonstrator who climbed over a security fence and entered RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to highlight the arrival there of American bombers was escorted off the base by guards. Juliet McBride was one of three members of the Southampton branch of "women against war" protesting at the return of the bombers to the former Gulf war base for a two-week operation.

UN forces 'lack skill to mediate'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PEACEKEEPING forces earmarked for duty in Yugoslavia and Cambodia have not been properly prepared, a report said yesterday.

Soldiers trained to fight were being sent to conflict areas where their only "usable weapon" would be the ability to negotiate, the department of peace studies at Bradford University said.

With the increase in United Nations peacekeeping commitments, a programme of multinational training was needed. Only five countries, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, had formalised training to prepare soldiers for UN peacekeeping.

The report said 14,000 peacekeepers, including 1,000 British troops, were due to be sent to Yugoslavia. "As peacekeepers they will be asked to work within a complex, violent and delicately balanced political environment, where one indiscretion by one private can cause huge repercussions for the entire mission." Yet soldiers were not trained "in even the most basic negotiation and conflict resolution skills".

Scrap blaze

Over 100 firemen fought for more than five hours to control a blaze at a southeast London scrapyard in the early hours of yesterday. Roads were cordoned off and a railway goods yard was closed as the crews of 15 appliances tackled the blaze at the premises of LSS Salvage, Peckham. The cause was not immediately known.

Fire at sea

HMS Kellington, a Royal Navy minesweeper, was towed into Devonport docks for repairs yesterday after being damaged by an engine room fire off the Devon coast and drifting for three hours. One of the fishery protection vessel's two turbines is believed to have been wrecked by the blaze before it was extinguished by the 38-strong crew, none of whom was injured.

Nudists banned

Nudists have been banned from a beach at Waxham after 20 years by North Norfolk district council, which said they attracted peeping toms. The Central Council for British Naturism said exhibitionists from outside the council had caused offence.

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Fading glories: a deteriorating row of early 19th century houses in Tower Hamlets, east London

Georgian houses join danger list

By JOHN YOUNG

NEARLY 1,000 buildings of historic or architectural interest in London are threatened by neglect and decay, English Heritage says today in its latest survey.

The buildings are falling into disrepair as fast as others are rescued, the survey indicates. Although about 200 of the buildings in the first register published a year ago have been restored and returned to use, as many have since become empty and endangered.

The purpose of the register, which forms part of a broader national survey, is to draw attention to London's disused historic buildings and to attract possible buyers.

Seventy per cent of the buildings at risk are residential, mostly Georgian terraced houses in inner city areas. Their restoration and reoccupation could act as a catalyst in the regeneration of run-down neighbourhoods.

English Heritage says. The list includes 18 buildings classed as Grade I or Grade II starred.

Among the best known are St Pancras station; the Round House, Chalk Farm; the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich; County Hall and the Lyceum theatre in Covent Garden.

Even more striking are the many neglected terrace houses in such boroughs as Camden, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets and Westminster. Forty-four chapels and churches are also identified in the register, with industrial buildings, schools and hospitals which, it is said, are suitable for other uses.

In the past year, English Heritage has offered more than £1 million for repairs to 39 London buildings at risk and advice on the repair or sale of about 180 other properties. In some cases, the prospect of statutory action, combined with a grant, has broken the deadlock after years of inertia, it says.

Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London (English Heritage, Fort House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB; £3.50, £1.50 p&pp)

President fails to beat Buchanan threat as Democrats still squabble

Rebels give Bush no quarter in South

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT Bush's hopes for a quick end to the Buchanan rebellion were disappointed yesterday, following another powerful attack from the Republican right in his Southern stronghold.

Mr Bush took 67 per cent of the primary vote in South Carolina, renamed "Bush Country" by its autocratic Republican governor, Carroll Campbell, a White House confidant. But the 33 per cent won by his opponents, shared between Patrick Buchanan (26 per cent) and David Duke (7 per cent), showed little let-up in the national level of dissatisfaction.

About an hour after polls closed here on Saturday, a reedy voice was heard over the telephone at Bush-Quayle headquarters as the president thanked his workers for the "magnificent victory". But officials expressed nervousness that their "momentum" into tomorrow's eleven "Super Tuesday" contests was not as great as they had hoped.

Mr Bush, who spent yesterday at Camp David after cutting short an ineffectual Southern tour, searched for ways to end the sense of a campaign gone wrong. Although the raw results from Republican elections this year show a clean sweep for the incumbent, Mr Buchanan's power to agitate the White House is growing.

Last week the normally cheerful presidential spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, called travelling reporters "lazy leeches" for their reluctance to listen to Mr Bush except through an audio-feed to the press room. Samuel Skinner, the White House chief of staff, called George Mitchell, the Senate majority leader, "a crass politician" who put his party above his country. But "everyone in the White House is really a surrogate for Pat Buchanan", a campaign aide confessed.

Rich Bond, the Republican national chairman, yesterday urged upon Mr Buchanan to withdraw from the race as soon as he was "mathematically unable" to win it. Mr Bond accused Mr Buchanan of "xenophobia, isolationism, and race-baiting" and said he had



"hijacked Mr Duke's message and put a jacket-and-onion" on it. Mr Buchanan said he was fighting for his principles and the future of his party, and would not pull out merely because he had lost the battle for convention delegates.

The best news for the White House yesterday was a press report containing new allegations about Bill Clinton, the Democrat front-runner, who won both South Carolina's primary and the Wyoming caucuses on Saturday. According to The New York Times, Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, were business partners in 1978 with the owner of a failing Savings and Loans company which was kept alive by the state on Mrs Clinton's legal advice while Mr Clinton was governor of Arkansas.

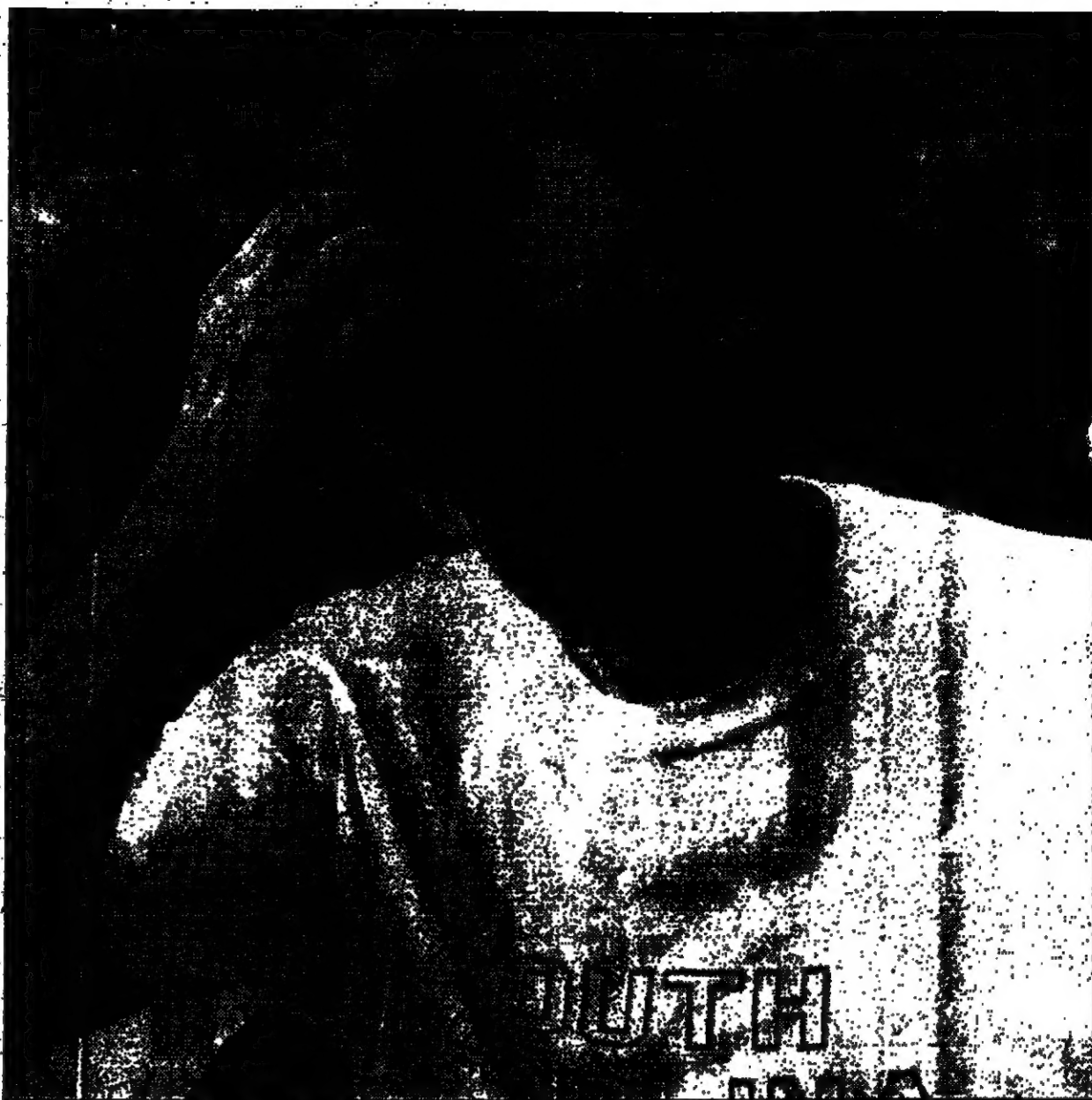
Earlier, in a victory here on Saturday which surprised no one, Mr Clinton won 69 per cent of the vote. He is well placed for success tomorrow in Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. But Paul Tsongas, his closest rival, won an unexpectedly high 19 per cent. Mr Tsongas also won Saturday's Arizona caucus.

Goodwill between the two Democrat camps is disappearing fast. In Florida, Mr Tsongas paraded a toy "Pander Bear" to show his opponent's willingness to pander to the electorate with tax cuts and other bribes. In South Carolina, a volunteer poll-watcher for the Tsongas campaign pressed assault charges against an official from the Clinton-dominated state party whom he claimed had gripped him round the neck to enforce an election-by-law. That was not the only inter-

cast incident on a day when Democrats were holding their first ever presidential primary. Polling stations varied in their interpretation of the rules. Many voters were turned away because volunteers made lunch a higher priority than democracy. At Charleston's Finest Dining Club, the secrecy of the Democratic ballot was maintained by a booth made from a Xerox-paper box. The Republicans had two boxes.

Monitoring this poll was a cautiously tale for any analyst to make too much of small percentages. Around Charleston, however, there were signs of another trouble, some trend for Mr Bush. Discontented liberal Republicans, citing Mr Bush's anti-abortion stance, his undignified mission to Japan and his economic failures, were voting for Paul Tsongas.

● New York: President Bush's eldest son, George W. Bush, has been accused of involvement in questionable business dealings at a small oil company. The magazine US News and World Report said that it had examined Mr Bush Jr's investments in Harken Energy Corp of Dallas and alleged that he had sold \$848,560, \$2500,000 worth of stock one week before a poor earnings report started a six-month plunge in share value. (Reuters)



Feeling the pace: President Bush, jogging at Pensacola naval air base, ponders a reporter's question about the arrival near the Gulf of two North Korean vessels said to be carrying Scud missiles for Iran and Syria

Tsongas kowtows to the Condo Commandos

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SUNNY ISLES, FLORIDA

They are called the Condo Commandos. Hundreds of thousands of them live in Condominium Canyon, the double wall of apartment blocks lining Florida's south-east coast for 60 miles from Palm Beach to Miami. They organise and agitate, vote en masse and en bloc. Such is the political muscle of these predominantly Jewish retirees from the North that even the intractable Paul Tsongas, desperate to win Florida in tomorrow's Super Tuesday primary, modifies his austere message to appease them: An end to global warming

to prevent the condos being flooded. Better health care. Strong support for Israel. Inflation-linked pensions for all but the super-rich. The Democratic presidential candidate promised all this to a silver-haired audience of elected representatives from 200 condos last weekend.

Mr Tsongas did "very well", ruled Marvin Manning, Commando-in-Chief, President of the Tri-county Condo Alliance, and a relative youth at 66. "These people have nothing to do but sit in the sun and talk. This will spread like wildfire."

It was a happier event for Mr Tsongas than that morning's anti-crime rally in

Overtown, Miami's drug-ridden, riot-torn black district, whose senior police officer boasted that "even New York can't compete with what's happening here". Series of police turned out to protect the cerebral white, but no-one came to listen.

America's fourth biggest state is critical to Mr Tsongas, who has all but eliminated Bill Clinton's big early lead here. This is his best chance of stopping the Arkansas governor from clean-sweeping the South to-morrow. It is also their first all-out confrontation on neutral territory, Florida being in the South but not of it. With 1,000 new arrivals daily

and three-quarters of the population from outside the state, it is the only place outside New England where being a Massachusetts Greek is not a liability.

The Florida Panhandle is Redneck Riviera. There are working-class white "Bubbas" and Southern Democrats in Tallahassee, yuppies and born-again Christians in the Orlando to Tampa corridor. The further south you go, the more Northern the state becomes, until you reach Miami, a riot of rabidly Republican Cuban exiles, dispossessed Haitians and Latin Americans of every hue, minorities within minorities.

Only in Florida does foreign policy — Castro, the Middle East peace talks — matter this year. Only here have the candidates faced lobbyists for Alzheimer's victims. Effective campaigning and polling in so fragmented a state is almost impossible. Mr Clinton has money, but in a state where roughly 40 per cent of the Democrats' 1988 voters were over 60 the disciplined Condo Commandos could prove decisive. They are unhappy about Mr Clinton's Vietnam draft record. "He's going to lose votes on it, no doubt about it," warned Mr Manning. "It's really a hardcore, basic negative."

Aziz seeks to head off UN action

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

TARIQ Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, flew to New York from Jordan last night to face a public tongue-lashing by the United Nations Security Council over Baghdad's failure to co-operate in dismantling its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programmes.

When he appears before the council on Wednesday, Mr Aziz, the first senior Iraqi official to visit America since the Gulf war, is likely to try to head off new action to force Baghdad to comply with the UN's resolutions.

Over the past week Britain and America have evoked the possibility of using force to remove suspected nuclear facilities and missile caches, but diplomats consider military action highly unlikely given the political pitfalls and opposition from within the American armed forces to possible new military entanglements in Iraq.

Several members of the House of Representatives, including Dante Fascell, its chairman, urged President

Bush yesterday to consider military action. Iraq is obliged to scrap its weapons under Resolution 687, which covered the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

In London, John Major said yesterday that he would support military action against Iraq if it was sanctioned by the United Nations. He said on Radio 4's Sunday that he would not rule out a strike if Iraq continued to obstruct the destruction of its missiles. "If that proves to be necessary, the answer is yes, I would support it," the prime minister said.

Among options being examined by the security council is a scheme to confiscate part of Iraq's assets, estimated at up to \$5 billion (£3 billion), which were frozen after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Most of the assets are held in America, Britain and Switzerland, but big legal and practical difficulties would need to be overcome before they could be confiscated.

Mr Aziz is expected to link further co-operation with

calls for a relaxation of the embargo that has crippled the Iraqi economy, an approach that the UN will almost certainly reject. Western officials believe that President Saddam Hussein is intent on wearing down the resolve of the UN over time, giving ground at the last minute each time the pressure is increased.

Last week Iraqi officials refused to let a team of UN missile experts dismantle a factory that made components for missiles, claiming that they produced only shorter-range missiles. Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN commission overseeing Iraqi compliance with the UN resolutions, says that he believes Baghdad is still hiding chemical weapon production facilities, as well as parts of its nuclear programme and a biological weapons production programme. Kuwait also has been complaining that Iraq has not returned all missing Kuwaiti citizens and property looted after its invasion in 1990.

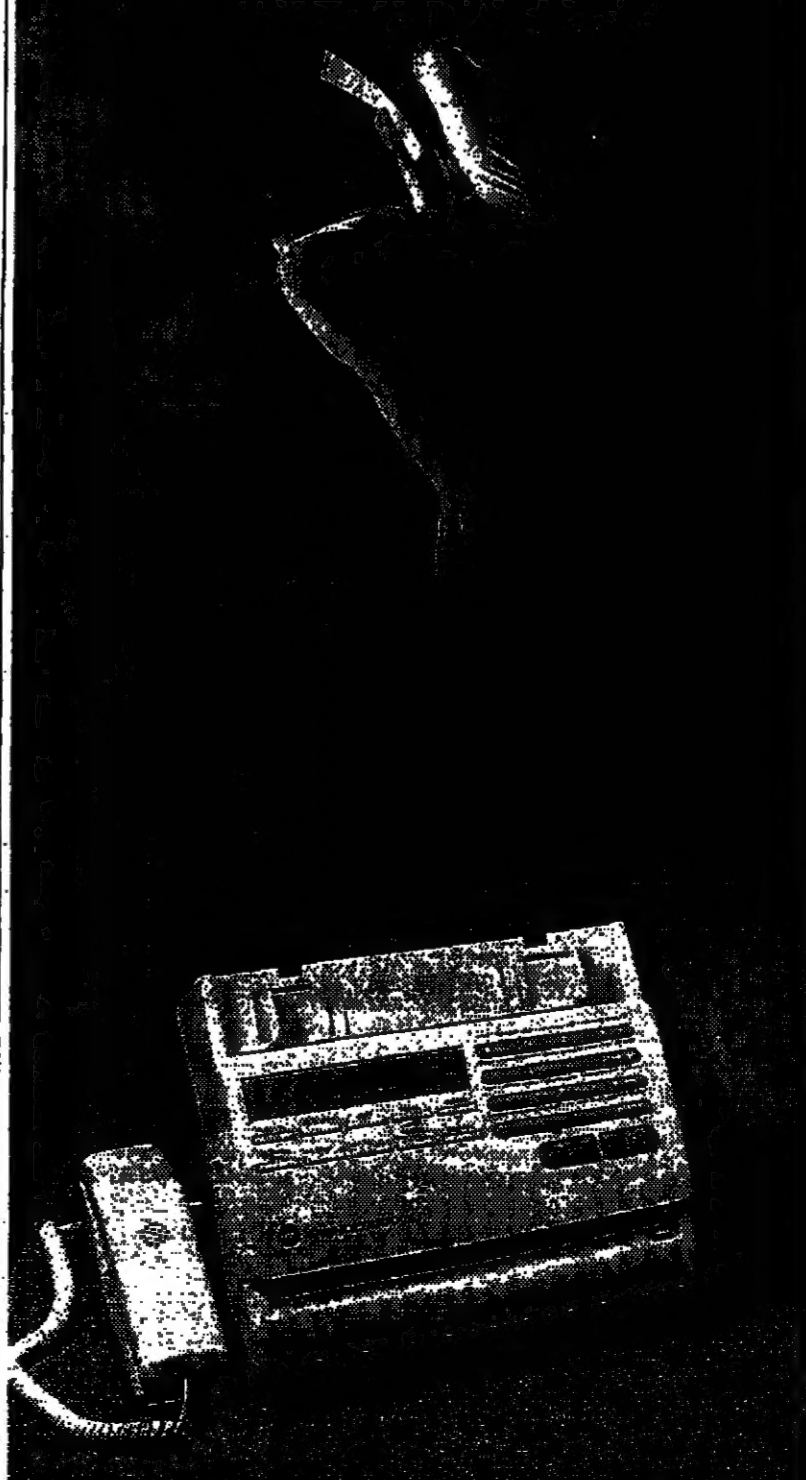
American warships were reported yesterday to be preparing to intercept two North Korean ships approaching the Gulf from the Indian Ocean. The ships are said to be carrying sophisticated Soviet missiles for Iran and Syria.

Mr Bush said on Saturday that he would not rule out American intervention to prevent the delivery of the weapons. Israel, which was hit by Scuds during the Gulf war, has urged America to take action against the vessels.

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Kuwait turns back on maids' suffering

KUWAIT'S postwar image is being tarnished by the payment being meted out to many of the Asian maids who have been returning here in tens of thousands.

During celebrations to mark liberation from Iraq, about 250 women were found by reporters to have taken refuge in the embassy of the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh where their fate remains uncertain. Although the women were trying to escape their employers, many were unable to leave the country because they had forfeited passports or were unable to pay back fines for their travel to their employers to secure exit permits.

They are very much the 20th-century equivalent of slaves, an envoy said. "There is little doubt their treatment has worsened since the war, but nobody is sure why. With hundreds

Asian maids in Kuwait are being raped, cheated and abused by their employers, Christopher Walker reports

more arriving daily, the number of these unfortunate women seeking refuge is bound to grow." Many of the 250 said that they had been beaten, raped, cheated or abused by their rich Kuwaiti employers and some bore the marks of ill treatment. Some said they had been physically attacked for failing to perform heavy domestic duties and others reported wages much lower than promised.

The callous treatment of the army of domestic servants sent to Kuwait by of-

ten dubious employment agencies with bases here and in the Third World began at the international airport. In one 60-minute period, I counted more than 300 disoriented-looking maids from Sri Lanka waiting for their Kuwaiti sponsors. Few could speak Arabic or English, and each wore a large green or white card pinned to their chest to identify them. In another part of the building, would-be servants had been sleeping, out unable to make contact with their sponsors.

Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Salem, the foreign minister, was repeatedly pressed about the scandal during a press conference to mark liberation. But he repeatedly tried to shrug off angry questions from an American television reporter, denying the allegations were as many as claimed by reporters who had visited the compounds. He tried to put the

blame on the agencies. "The government of Kuwait is not aware of any serious complaint from the embassies," he said. "There is always misunderstanding between the employer and employees, like in any other place in the world."

The Philippines embassy, where about 150 women are in permanent residence, said five women had suffered serious injuries. An official claimed that, on average, two Filipinas complained of rape every month. At the Sri Lankan compound, journalists were shown pictures of maids with cigarette burns on their bodies, alleged to have been inflicted by Kuwaitis. A diplomat said the mission received up to six complaints a month from maids who said they had been raped. Kuwait's police said that, in the absence of a law regulating agencies, there was little they could do.

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Mandela and Botha issue warnings on referendum

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress, warned South African whites yesterday that, if next week's referendum on reform leads to a return to apartheid and "the hopes of the majority of South Africans are thwarted, the stress and upheavals of the past will be like a game of marbles."

Meanwhile, P.W. Botha, the former president, has declared that he will vote "no". He described the multiparty Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) as "an expensive and artificial Tower of Babel" dominated by the South African Communist party and said he would not be untrue to himself and take part in the suicide of his own people.

President de Klerk reacted by noting that Mr Botha had begun the initiative which had led to the release of Mr Mandela and other ANC leaders. "I cannot but believe that his current conduct is motivated to a large extent by personal resentment," Mr de Klerk added.

Mr Mandela's words appeared in the mass-circulation Johannesburg *Sunday Times*. The newspaper has a mainly English-speaking readership which is the target of both the ruling National party, which wants a "yes" vote, and the right-wing alliance led by the Conservative

party, which is campaigning for a "no" vote. He said of the referendum: "It is painful and abhorrent to us that once again a decision on the destiny of our country is being taken by a minority of the population." But he urged "all those who have the privilege to vote to use it".

A "yes" vote, he said, would mean sitting round a table as equals and working out the best method of installing a democratic system in which all the country's inhabitants felt secure. A "no" vote would be "a declaration of war against the majority in this country".

The referendum campaign has now moved into overdrive, with the right-wing alliance of the Conservative party, the Herstigte Nasionale party and the Afrikaner Resistance Movement holding what they hoped would be a mass rally on Saturday in Pretoria. Although the organisers had apparently expected a crowd of 50,000, fewer than 5,000 turned up.

The "yes" vote campaign has attracted the backing of foreign governments and a £400,000 advertising campaign sponsored by local big business, yet there is a growing awareness in government circles of the skilful campaigning of the Conservative party and its alliance partners in traditional areas of support, and concern that apathy among English-speaking voters will lead to Mr de Klerk securing a much lower majority than the sweeping victory he needs.

The Conservative party has also warned companies supporting a "yes" vote that they are facing the risk of consumer boycotts, a weapon perfected by voteless blacks, unless they shut up. Andries Beyers, the Conservatives' national secretary, said thousands of potential "no" voters were stock exchange investors, pension fund contributors and businessmen who could easily move their money.

Over 100 pilgrims drowned

Bangkok: More than a hundred people drowned yesterday after their ferry was struck by a Thai oil tanker in a sea south of Bangkok (Neil Kelly writes). The ferry's captain was among the survivors and was detained by police.

An interior ministry official said that 119 bodies had been recovered and more were expected to be found when the search resumes today. About 140 people are thought to have been on the vessel. They were members of a Chinese Thai group on pilgrimage to Buddhist shrines on Kt Si Chang Island.

Election help



London: To mark Commonwealth day, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, above, the Commonwealth secretary-general, has announced two election-monitoring exercises to reinforce democracy in member nations (Michael Binyon writes). Constitutional and electoral experts have been sent to Lesotho, and a legal drafter is in the Seychelles. Both have asked the Commonwealth to monitor their elections.

Refugees die

Dhaka: At least 100 Muslims were killed when the Burmese navy fired on two fishing trawlers ferrying about 400 refugees across the border into southeast Bangladesh (Ahmed Fazl writes). Abul Hussain, a survivor, said in Teknaf that gunboats attacked the trawlers about seven miles from Akyab, a Burmese provincial capital, sinking one of them in the Naf river.

Taking revenge

Ankara: The Islamic Revenge Organisation admitted planting the car bomb on Saturday that killed Ehud Sadan, aged 37, an Israeli security officer here. The group was avenging the killing of Sheikh Abbas Moussawi. (Reuters)

Cash warriors

Peking: A Chinese official has proposed raising hard currency through the sale of some of the 7,000 terracotta figures of warriors buried in the tomb of the first emperor, Chin Shih Huang, more than 2,000 years ago. (AP)



Scorched earth: farmers surveying the sun-baked bed of the Graaf-Reinet dam in the Cape province. One of the worst dry spells on record has led to crop failure and is forcing southern African countries to import food amid fear of social unrest

Famine threatens drought-gripped Africa

One of the worst droughts in living memory is ravaging crops in southern Africa and threatening millions of people with starvation. Lack of rain is devastating harvests and grazing land at a time when stocks of the region's main staple, maize, are low.

"Unless measures are taken immediately to cover the shortfall in cereal production, southern Africa faces the prospect of widespread

As arid conditions spread and bring emergencies in southern Africa, Judith Madoff in Johannesburg assesses needs country by country.

famine later this year," Edouard Saouma, director-general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, said. Crop failures in South Africa and Zimbabwe, traditional bread baskets for the region's 100

million people, have exacerbated the situation. South Africa, normally a maize exporter, might have to import three million tonnes to cover local needs and export commitments, the state-run Maize Board said. The

Maize Board issued a warning that the drought could push up meat prices by 15 to 24 per cent.

Zimbabwe plans to import two million tonnes to avert starvation while officials say maize could run out over the next two months, threatening unrest. Zimbabwe had imported less than one-third of 100,000 tonnes bought from South Africa.

Zambia has declared a national disaster after dry heat destroyed cereal and other food crops. Its projected 1.2 million tonne maize yield has shrunk to 400,300 tonnes and it is expected to import more than 800,000 tonnes costing £171 million.

Namibia reckons it lost 30 per cent of the commercial maize crop. A record 25,000 hectares planted after a bumper 1991 may yield 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes against 50,000 initially expected. It must import more than 100,000 tonnes.

Only 20 per cent of the normal area for cash and food crops was planted in Botswana this past season. Sorghum prices last month rose over 40 per cent.

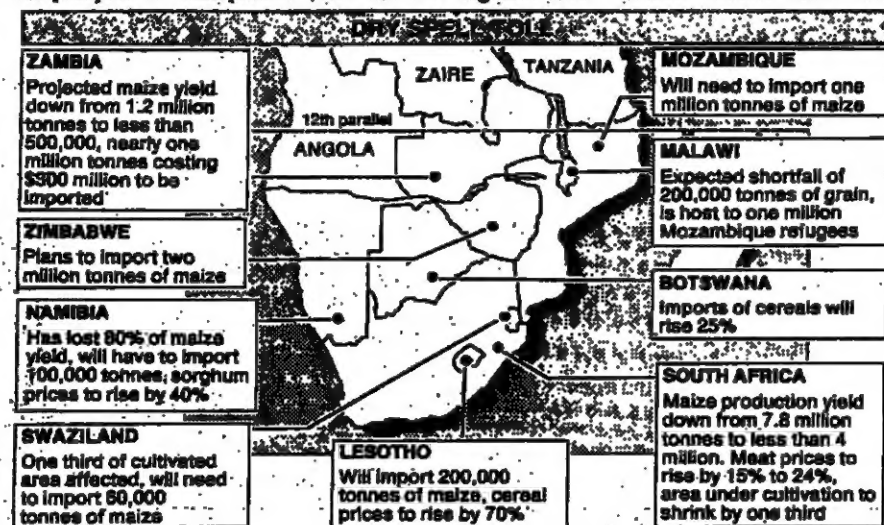
Normally Botswana produces 50,000 tonnes and imports 170,000 tonnes of cereals from South Africa.

Lesotho officials estimate that it will need to import 200,000 tonnes of maize, and prices are due to double to 52.40 rand (more than £4) a kg. Sorghum, bean and pea prices are due to rise by up to 70 per cent.

In Swaziland, cattle pasturage is shrinking and some farmers have cut their selling prices from \$210 to \$40 per head. Drought has affected 30 per cent of the 43,885 hectares of maize, wheat and rice.

Mozambique will need to import one million tonnes of maize due to the drought in six southern and central provinces. The Harare-based Regional Early Warning System for Food Security says. The civil war disrupted transport. A million Mozambican refugees in Malawi are worsening the expected shortfall of 200,000 tonnes of grain.

As famine conditions worsened in Ethiopia, 5,000 died to Kenya during the weekend. (Reuters)



China to voice its Hong Kong fears

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

QIAN Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister, begins talks this morning with the prime minister and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on recent disagreements between China and the Hong Kong government, as well as the instability in the former Soviet Union and other world affairs.

Mr Qian, making his first visit to Britain under the agreement signed by John Major last year for regular consultations, is expected to express opposition to Hong Kong's plans to turn the government television station into a corporation. Peking wants to ensure the government retains control of broadcasting when Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997.

Several other irritants have preoccupied the work of the Joint Liaison Group. China last week questioned the choice of a British-led consortium to design the new airport terminal, and Liu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macao affairs office, demanded an explanation of why the highest bidder was chosen. His criticism, coming after other challenges

to Hong Kong government decisions, raises questions over whether Peking will let Hong Kong run its own affairs for the next five years.

Mr Qian will meet MPs from the British-Chinese parliamentary group, who are likely to press him on human rights. He will also meet Gerald Kaufman, opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Margaret Thatcher and Edward Heath.

The Chinese are likely to make clear their worries about the political instability in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and will ask about European Community aid to Russia and the republics. The repatriation of boat people from Hong Kong to Vietnam is also on the agenda, and Britain will probably ask Mr Qian for Peking's support for the United Nations' peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Human rights activists are likely to dog Mr Qian on his visit to Britain, Brussels and Bonn. Several former political prisoners in China are visiting Britain to draw attention to the condition of those still detained.

Peking sounds alarm

BY CATHERINE SAMPSON

TOMUR Dawamat, the local government chairman in China's volatile northwestern region of Xinjiang, has called on the security forces, including the People's Liberation Army, to resist a new wave of what he described as sabotage and subversion by independence activists.

Peking is sounding the alarm after exiled Uighurs in neighbouring Kazakhstan, calling themselves the Front for the Liberation of Uighuristan, announced last week that they would launch a guerrilla war to take back Xinjiang from Chinese rule. Referring to the separatists, the chairman said: "Hostile forces at home and abroad have stepped up their infiltration, subversion and sabotage".

He said that the army, militia and police should work together closely to defeat the threat and gave a warning that separatists should be "harshly punished". This usually means execution or long prison sentences. Tomur Dawamat is himself a Uighur, but represents Chinese rule in the region.

Australia ordains ten women priests after court plea fails

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA'S Anglican church has ordained its first women priests after a court rejected an attempt to prevent it doing so.

Ten women and the husband of one of them were ordained on Saturday at St George's cathedral in Perth, Western Australia. The ordinations were condemned by opponents of women priests in the Church of England as "divisive and destructive".

Dr Peter Carnley, Archbishop of Perth and an advocate of women priests, ordained the women in a crowded cathedral. Hundreds waited outside. In the Western Australian su-

preme court on Friday, Justice Kerry White rejected an application to stop the ordinations.

The archbishop said in his sermon: "Today we ordain ten, but we liberate tens of thousands from the stereotype with which they have been bound." He said the church positively needed women's contribution to all aspects of its life.

"Today is the day of the glorious liberation of the children of God from the cloying wallpaper of stereotype with which women have been 'wrapped around,'" he said. "Today is the day of expanding horizons and new global per-

spectives for the candidates themselves and women generally, for the church of this diocese and in Australia, and for the world of the future."

The Rev Geoffrey Kirk, of Coet of Conscience, a body which opposes women priests in England, said in a debate with Caroline Davis, executive secretary of the Movement for the Ordination of Women on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme that he hoped "the church will see how divisive and destructive this is, and turn away from it. I'm very saddened by what has happened in Australia."

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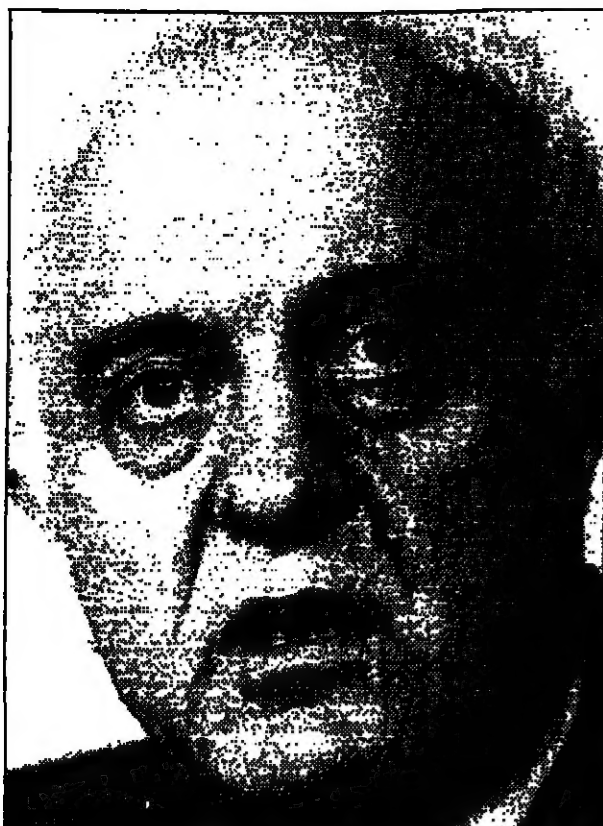
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Shevardnadze: former KGB and party chief faces daunting task of uniting his country

Returning strongman tells Georgia hard truths

Eduard Shevardnadze will need all his skills to rescue the Georgian economy.
Bruce Clark writes from Tbilisi

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the master diplomat who as the former Soviet foreign minister helped to bring down the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, settled down yesterday to the no less daunting task of uniting his own conflict-ridden country.

Mr Shevardnadze's reputation abroad, acquired over nearly six years as the suave foreign minister of the Gorbachev era, is not necessarily matched in his native region. To the outside world, he embodies the liberalism of the end of the Soviet Union; Georgians, or some of them, associate him with his time, in a previous incarnation, as hardline head of the KGB and then party leader in Tbilisi. Hallmark of those years was a ruthless purging of corruption endemic in Georgia's free-wheeling life style.

Now aged 64, he stepped back into Georgia's politics yesterday by saying that his Black Sea republic, long syn-

onymous with prosperity and hedonism, was on the brink of economic disaster. "If we cannot unite all political forces, all public figures and all races... we shall be facing catastrophe," Mr Shevardnadze said after an initial round of consultations with political leaders. He described food reserves as minimal, and said the situation was no less serious in fertile rural areas than it was in Tbilisi, the capital, where bread queues have been lengthening.

Georgia was torn apart in December and January by fighting that led to the overthrow of the controversial and eccentric President Gamsakhurdia, elected last May but rapidly denounced at home and abroad for his authoritarian behaviour. Since then, a provisional leadership headed by Jaba Ioseliani, a guerrilla chieftain, has been struggling with only partial success to restore order and

end the republic's diplomatic isolation.

A crowd of about 5,000 people gathered at Tbilisi airport and cheered enthusiastically when Mr Shevardnadze's aircraft arrived on Saturday. If the numbers did not quite amount to the tolling masses of Georgia, the turnout was impressive enough, considering that public transport — notably the underground system — has virtually ceased to function.

Within minutes of arriving, looking dazed and a little nervous, for his first visit to Tbilisi in four years, Mr Shevardnadze made some well-judged gestures that presumably were intended as public acts of repentance for

his communist past. The former Communist party boss who was Georgia's effective ruler from 1972 to 1985 went straight from the airport to see Patriarch Ilya, leader of the Georgian Orthodox Church, at his handsome riverside residence. Then Mr Shevardnadze went to the cemetery, where the victims of the recent fighting are buried.

Next, he inspected the ruins of Rustaveli Avenue, the erstwhile pride of the capital, which was devastated by rocket and artillery fire. As he inspected the blackened shells of once distinguished public buildings, many Georgians must have sensed a certain irony. It is axiomatic among supporters of Mr Gamsakhurdia — and pri-

vately admitted by many of his opponents — that moral support from Mr Shevardnadze was a decisive factor in the success of the rebellion.

The fact that Mr Shevardnadze is now welcomed by most people, at least in the capital, is a measure of the extraordinary changes that have overtaken the republic in the past six months. In September, the huge pro-Gamsakhurdia crowds cheered wildly when a government official emerged to make the absurd claim that Mr Shevardnadze had been arrested in Moscow.

The ravages of war, however, and above all the rigours of economic austerity (many districts of Tbilisi are effectively without electricity, water or gas), have brought home some hard truths to a nation with expensive tastes. Mr Gamsakhurdia appealed to the romantic streak in Georgians which told them that their country could succeed

alone, but Mr Shevardnadze appeals to the Georgians' pragmatic instincts which tell them that isolation from Russia and the West is too high a price to pay for wayward independence. Mr Shevardnadze said yesterday that he had received promises of aid for Georgia from several Western countries and he was confident of more.

Georgia's new strong man could not be more different in style than the ousted nationalist. Mr Gamsakhurdia was by instinct a divider: a man who rushed to denounce anyone who dissented from his nationalist line as an enemy of the people. Mr Shevardnadze, by contrast, is remembered here as a skilled unifier: a superb practitioner of the art of buying off potential opposition. He has already won the trust of political groups that were considerably more strident in their anti-communism than Mr Gamsakhurdia ever was.

Fighting rages in Azerbaijan enclave

Turks seek US help in finding solution

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

IN THE first test of its new regional role among the countries of the former Soviet Union, Turkey called on America at the weekend to mediate in the search for a solution in Nagorno-Karabakh. Hikmet Cetin, the foreign minister, telephoned James Baker, American Secretary of State, on Saturday and told him that the conflict threatened regional peace.

Fierce fighting continued at the weekend in the disputed enclave. However, Yagub Mamedov, who took over on Friday from Ayaz Mutalibov as Azerbaijan's interim president, has taken a "dovish" line despite the increasingly bellicose public mood. He told Western correspondents that negotiations must be started quickly.

"I do not support a military solution because we have not yet exhausted all other possibilities," he said. He will come under strong pressure

to intensify the Azerbaijan war effort when parliament resumes its emergency debate on Nagorno-Karabakh in Baku, the Azerbaijan capital, tomorrow.

Mr Cetin has just returned from a tour of Central Asia and Ukraine, and Ankara is proposing a "two-corridor" solution to bring about peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This calls for a land corridor giving Armenians access to Nagorno-Karabakh in exchange for a strip of land that would allow Azerbaijanis to have access to their countrymen in the enclave of Nakhchivan on the Turkish-Iranian border.

Such a solution would give the Turks direct land access to the Turkic-speaking people of Azerbaijan, and incidentally would remove Armenia's border with Iran. But Mr Cetin said there would have to be a ceasefire before any long-term proposals could be discussed. After making a

second, unplanned stop in Baku, he appeared shocked by a film he saw of Armenian atrocities committed against Azerbaijanis.

Mr Cetin leaves today for the first meeting at foreign minister level of the Nato Co-operation Council, which groups Nato and the former members of the Warsaw Pact. The Commonwealth of Independent States will be admitted to the council tomorrow and Armenia and Azerbaijan will be represented. The council is unlikely to attempt any mediation of its own, however. Turkey is par-

ticularly concerned about the fighting because it threatens instability on its border, jeopardises Ankara's attempt to improve relations with Armenia, and could blight hopes of bringing the Transcaucasus within a loose sphere of Turkish influence. Although he pledged medical and humanitarian assistance, Mr Cetin is coming under increasing pressure, not least from President Ozal, to support Azerbaijan more aggressively. There are calls to mobilise Turkish troops and shift winter military exercises now going on near the city of Kars closer to the Armenian border. Last week President Ozal said that it was necessary to "scare the Armenians a little". However, Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, replied that nothing would rally Western public opinion around the Armenians so effectively as for Turkey to be seen to take sides in the dispute.

Turkey is able to stop the flow of emergency aid passing by rail to the Armenian border. Armenia is known to regard the development of the Turkish Black Sea port of Trabzon as an important link to the outside world. However, Armenia is a sensitive subject in the Turkish foreign ministry, where memories of colleagues murdered in a campaign by an Armenian underground are still fresh. Turkish public opinion believes that the Western media, particularly in France and Germany, are biased in favour of Armenia.

Belgian leader faces test

Brussels Jean-Luc Dehaene, aged 51, the new Flemish Christian Democrat leader of the Belgian government, will face a baptism of fire in a confidence vote tomorrow (George Brock writes). Invented by King Baudouin to end three and a half months of political uncertainty after an indecisive general election, he has brought together a four-party majority coalition of Socialists and Christian Democrats from Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia.

Mr Dehaene's cabinet of 16 members, sworn in on Saturday, left out Wilfried Martens, Belgium's veteran prime minister, who has led the country for almost all of the past 12 years. Last year, his reputation as a master-fixer and coalition-maker waned, however.

The new prime minister is a portly man with a taste for football and classical music. He was described recently by a Belgian newspaper as "one hundred kilos of political subtlety".

Roll of martyrs
Rome: The Pope has recognised the martyrdom of 76 people, mostly clerics killed "in hatred of the faith" during the Mexican and Spanish civil wars. They may now be beatified. (Reuters)

Romania call
Bucharest: After last week's ethnic clashes in which several people were killed, Romania's opposition has urged the government to denounce attacks on the Romanian majority in Moldavia. (Reuters)

Bonn doubts

Hamburg: America has asked Germany to join a worldwide version of its "Star Wars" space defence system, the magazine *Der Spiegel* reported. But it said, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, had serious doubts. (Reuters)

Suicide protest

Berlin: Detlef Dalk, an east German who faced losing his house as compensation to a man who had fled communism, has killed himself. The suicide led to calls for the 1990 unification treaty to be amended. (Reuters)

Bread and milk price curbs end in Russia

By MARY DEJEVSKY

THE Russian government has lifted price ceilings on bread, milk and a range of other staples which were exempt from the price liberalisation of January 2. An official announcement, signed by President Yeltsin, said that the measure was intended to improve supplies to the consumer.

Since state subsidies on most food and consumer goods were lifted, supplies to shops have improved, but shortages of milk, cooking oil and other staples with regulated prices have persisted.

In Moscow, shops have recently started to sell milk from the back door at very high, unregulated prices. Bread supplies have been adequate, but queues built up in Moscow after the announcement ten days ago that price ceilings were to be lifted. Russian

government officials believe that the removal of price ceilings should attract supplies of milk back to the market and could reduce the black market price being demanded by back-door traders. The change in bread pricing will make little difference overall, as only two varieties were still sold at subsidised prices.

While state subsidies have been reduced or lifted, with a promise that the bulk of the money saved will be used to increase carefully "targeted" social benefits, local authorities are being encouraged to introduce discretionary subsidies of their own. An acute shortage of funds is likely to prevent them from doing so, but the move could deflect public hostility from the central to local government.

Letters, page 13

Draft laws widen Yeltsin's powers

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation, which has been administered over the past year according to a largely ad hoc set of principles and a much-amended constitution inherited from the Communists, will start to look far more like a modern, independent and democratic state if a new constitution, completed at the weekend, is approved.

The new constitution would radically alter the balance of power between the president and parliament, which has caused so much trouble for Boris Yeltsin over the past year. It also assumes that Russia will have its own armed forces, despite many public statements to the contrary by Russian leaders.

The draft also casts doubt on Russia's long-term commitment to the Commonwealth of Independent States as anything more than a transient grouping of fully independent countries. It mentions the commonwealth only once, and then as an option: "The Russian Federation has the right to enter a commonwealth (alliance) with other states and delegate to it some of its powers."

The constitutional provision for a Russian army supports this view of the commonwealth. Clause 128 says: "The Russian Federation will be defended by the armed forces of the Russian Federation" whose "military doctrine, structure and organisation will be defined

by a federal law". The president will be the commander-in-chief. Only then do alliances come into the equation.

Democratic groups argued for ditching the old constitution and starting again on the basis of a draft proposed by Andrei Sakharov, the late human rights campaigner. Their conservative opponents fiercely resisted any attempt to dislodge the old document.

This conflict fostered all manner of contradictions. The current constitution provides for an executive president who has no real power. Mr Yeltsin was able to combat this only by persuading parliament to give him "special powers" and appointing himself head of government.

In spite of the president's efforts, the break-up of the state is becoming a real possibility. At the weekend a group within the ruling Slovak Christian Democratic party indicated that it would set up a pro-independence faction. That seriously weakens the government of Jan Carnogursky, the moderate Christian Democrat Slovak prime minister, who wants Slovakia in a loose federation.

However, most of the Slovak political spectrum — the left-leaning nationalists of Vladimir Meciar, the former prime minister, the chauvinist Slovak Nationalist party, the former communists and now the breakaway group of Christian Democrats — want a complete divorce.

Fears grow of Slovak breakaway

BY ROGER BOYES
EAST EUROPE
CORRESPONDENT

WITH Czechs and Slovaks moving closer to divorce, President Havel yesterday attacked Slovak nationalist politicians for thwarting plans for a referendum on independence.

Speaking on the BBC World Service's *It's Your World* programme, Mr Havel rejected criticism that he was blocking Slovak independence. He had proposed a referendum for Slovaks which had been rejected by politicians in Bratislava.

"Perhaps they are afraid that a majority of ordinary people would want to stay in the joint Czechoslovak state," he said. In spite of the president's efforts, the break-up of the state is becoming a real possibility. At the weekend a group within the ruling Slovak Christian Democratic party indicated that it would set up a pro-independence faction. That seriously weakens the government of Jan Carnogursky, the moderate Christian Democrat Slovak prime minister, who wants Slovakia in a loose federation.

However, most of the Slovak political spectrum — the left-leaning nationalists of Vladimir Meciar, the former prime minister, the chauvinist Slovak Nationalist party, the former communists and now the breakaway group of Christian Democrats — want a complete divorce.

Belgrade steps up pressure on rally

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THOUSANDS more police were being bused into Belgrade at the weekend as the Serbian authorities stepped up pressure to dissuade opposition supporters from attending the big anti-government rally planned in the city for today.

Yesterday morning the Croatian authorities claimed that at least seven people had been killed during an overnight attack on the eastern town of Osijek. But the Yugoslav army claimed that Croatian forces had been attacking them and that they had not returned fire.

Referring to the increased police presence in Belgrade, Borisav Jovic, a leading member of Serbia's ruling Socialist party, said: "The authorities will defend themselves from those who work for foreign employers". Socialist politicians have given a warning that Croatian terrorists disguised as Yugoslav soldiers were preparing to infiltrate the demonstration. Posters have gone up in Belgrade, signed by an anonymous "group of citizens", saying that bombs disguised as pencils, pens and trinkets are to be scattered during the rally.

The final campaign against the long-planned opposition demonstration came as the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping forces arrived in Belgrade yesterday evening. General Staff Nambiar, from India, was

accompanied by 40 experts who are to settle outstanding problems before the arrival of the main body of the 14,000-strong force.

During today's rally Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, was to have been in Brussels attending a



one-day session of the European Community peace conference on Yugoslavia. This would have been the first meeting of the presidents of all six of the old Yugoslav republics since the last session of the conference in November. However last night, it was announced that Mr Milosevic would not be attending because he had been involved in a car crash.

The Yugoslav army, which intervened during the demonstrations a year ago, appears to be at the ready once again. A recent purge has removed many of the last remaining senior officers who are not Serb or Montenegrin.

On Saturday the defence ministry issued a stern warning saying that "in connection with the plan of extremist groups from within the country and from abroad to use this rally for attacks on vital objects... Any attack on members of the armed forces or military objects... will be responded to in accordance with military rules".

Bonn: A "black legion" of European neo-Nazis and former members of the East German people's army has been formed to fight alongside the Croatian national guard against the Serbians and federal Yugoslav army, according to the German federal police (Ian Murray writes).

The legion's stated aim is to fight communism. *Berliner Zeitung* said police investigations also revealed that right-wing extremists had been smuggling weapons to help the Croatian resistance.

MADRID NOTEBOOK by Helena de Bertodano

Operatic harmony returns after Olympics discord



Carreras: accused of lack of respect

The threat to the Barcelona Olympics in June posed by Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, is still potent and the police are mounting a huge security operation to ensure the games are not disrupted.

Another potential source of trouble — from Spain's leading tenors — has evaporated. Alfredo Kraus, who had been left out of the opening ceremony at Barcelona by Jose Carreras, is to take part after all.

Jordi Solé, the minister of culture, intervened, meeting Carreras and Kraus separately and,

according to an official, appealing to them to "solve their differences which were jeopardising not only their reputations but also that of the Olympics".

Carreras, who is musical director of the ceremony, said he had left Kraus out because of his objections to "the abuse of opera at mass media events". But Kraus charged Carreras with "great lack of respect and consideration" and took the opportunity to embarrass those taking part in the opening by stating that Montserrat Caballé, Plácido Domingo, Carreras and other opera

stars would be miming to a playback of a recording.

Kraus, who had accused the singers of forming a cultural mafia against him, accepted a belated invitation to the ceremony, saying: "I can hardly refuse after all this fuss. But everyone knows that I am a demanding singer, and I assume that I will offer a role worthy of my talents."

But Kraus insists he must be included in the recording, completed two months ago. That means it must either be repeated or his voice superimposed, a costly operation.

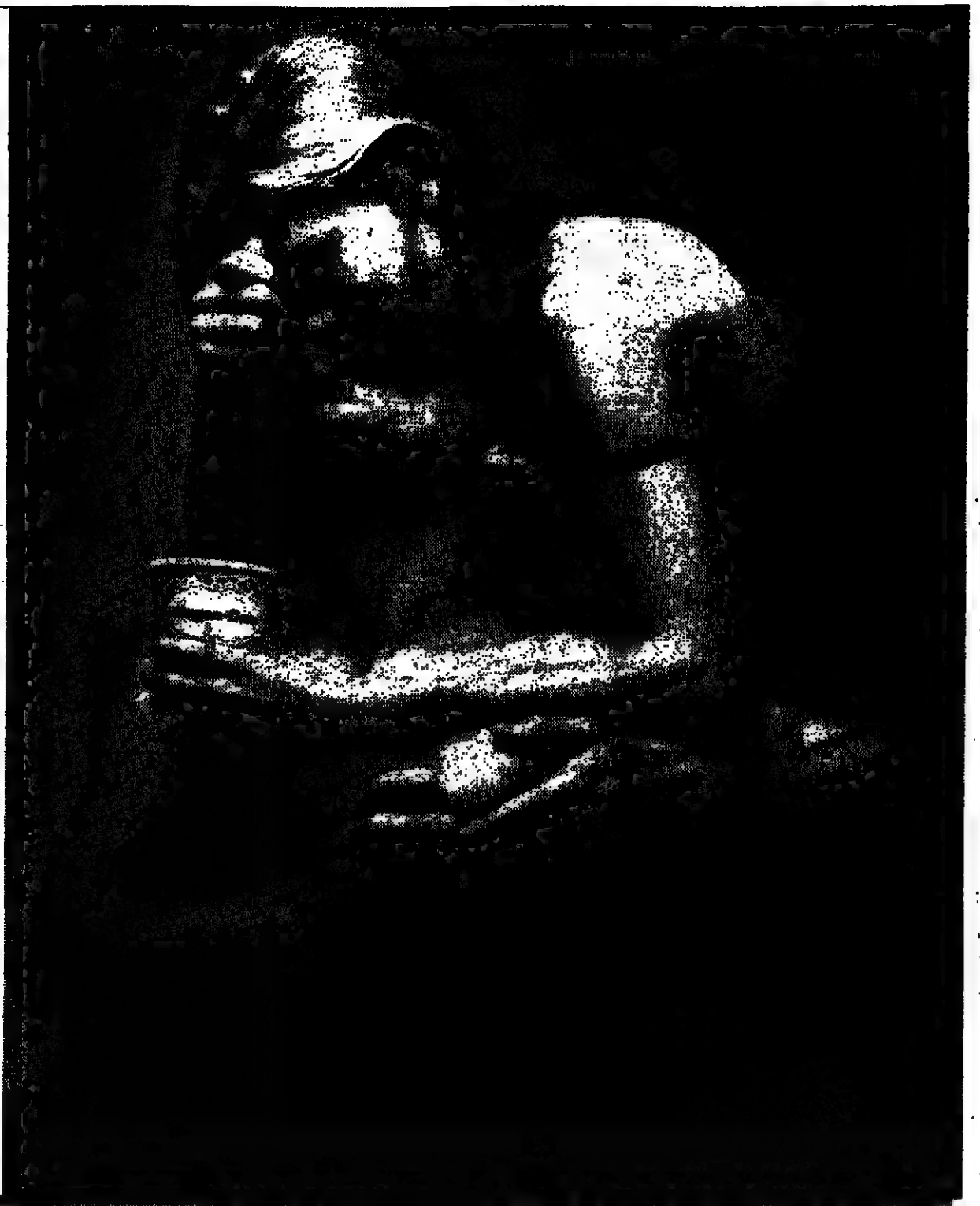
The small Spanish town of Banyoles, picked to host the Olympics rowing contest, is capitalising on a controversy over a mummified black man on display in the local museum. People are flocking to see the stuffed Kalahari Bushman, who, according to popular accounts, was robbed from his grave in Botswana by a 19th-century French taxidermist. The mummified man so offended the sensibilities of a Haiti-born Spanish doctor that he has urged African countries to boycott the Olympics if the exhibit is not removed.

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Dropping the electoral pilot

Peter Riddell on a man who changed the way we look at general elections

Sir Lewis Namier once described elections as locks on the river of British history, controlling the flow of events. For more than 40 years the lock-keeper has been David Butler. The way we think about the coming election will be heavily influenced by his work as founding father of British psephology, author of the Nuffield studies of elections, broadcaster, journalist and impresario of wide-ranging debates about politics.

Last Friday, Dr Butler gave the last of his seminars at Nuffield College, Oxford, as he will this summer be retiring from his formal post — though he will not be reducing his writing and other activities. The Butler seminar has become an institution over the past 35 years, at which leading MPs and civil servants educate the young about the methods of politics, about how the system really works as opposed to the textbook version. A commemorative volume presented to Dr Butler on Friday contained tributes from three former prime ministers, three former cabinet secretaries (including a poem from Robert Armstrong) and many MPs, all of whom have participated.

Dr Butler admits the seminar is part exhibition and part analysis, as well as a shameless lion-hunting. The usual formula is for him to pose a series of questions for ten minutes to the guest, who gives an off-the-cuff reply. The one exception is Tony Benn, his lifelong friend, who is allowed to deliver a prepared address. This follows the advice of Mr Benn's father, Lord Stansgate, that he should never go to a public function without a clean handkerchief and a speech ready.

The Butler seminar features several times in both the Benn and Crossman diaries. Mr Benn records being "cross-examined most sharply" in February 1978 about accountability in Labour politics (a forerunner of his early 1980s effort to change the party's constitution), while Crossman reports in May 1966 on a discussion of cabinet government that it was "a strange sensation to try out my thoughts on this subject", especially when asked why he was not allowed to discuss how cabinet committees worked or even to say they took place.

The value of the seminars is not only their candid insights but also the rare bridge they achieve between the largely separate worlds of politicians, academics and the media. Dr Butler believes that "good politics, like good theatre, needs good criticism." Many political scientists give the impression that they have seldom, if ever, talked to a real MP, let alone understood what makes the political world tick. Equally, not many MPs, and even fewer journalists, move beyond day-to-day events to reflect on the operation of the system. The Butler seminar has provided one of the very few such links. He, and close associates such as Vernon Bogdanor, have stimulated a de-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

bate about the constitutional and political implications of a hung Parliament among those likely to be closely involved in Whitehall and the parties.

As all who know him can testify, Dr Butler is generous with his time, advice and support to pupils and journalists alike. But his interest in the practice of politics, and his journalistic activities, have not always endeared him to fellow academics, who have meanly denied him a chair at Oxford.

Dr Butler's most enduring contribution is to have changed the way we look at elections. It is hard now to recall how elections were fought in the early 1950s, when there was no coverage by the broadcasters and the parties hardly ever engaged directly with each other. The big difference between then and now is not just the pervasive television coverage

but the influence of polls, which have helped to clarify both the actions of politicians and the choices facing voters.

Taking forward the pioneering work of R.B. McCallum on the 1945 election, Dr Butler helped to dispel many of the myths that had existed about what decides elections. He has been like a reporter in finding out information

not revealed to journalists during elections, such as the pressures on Edward Heath during the October 1974 campaign. Dr Bogdanor points out how Dr Butler stimulated the academic study of political behaviour through his book with Donald Stokes, *Political Change in Britain*, which highlighted generational change.

One of the main criticisms of Dr Butler's work is that he has succeeded too well, that too much attention is paid to elections as turning points. In his recent book, *British General Elections since 1945*, he accepts that elections decide less than they appear to and less than is suggested in campaign rhetoric. He lists post-war landmarks, such as devaluations and entry into Europe, that would have happened whichever party was in power. Similarly, entry into the exchange-rate mechanism in October 1990 will have a stronger influence on economic policy in the 1990s than the result of the coming campaign. Elections, he argues, do not usually decide the fate of nations; that is largely in the power of trends beyond the control of any government. Elections still play a central role in educating and influencing both voters and elected. What is thought to be acceptable to voters conditions most of the decisions of Whitehall and Westminster.

Dr Butler is a very English figure, in the tradition of Bagehot, epitomising a pragmatic rather than an ideological or philosophical approach. He has set the standard for the rest of us.



Butler: a bridge-builder

Peter Barnard seeks a cure for his smoking addiction beyond the Chancellor's coaxings

Let us ban tobacco

Somewhere around 4pm tomorrow Norman Lamont will turn a page, leaving behind such arcane matters as offshore taxation. At this point the waiting millions will sit up and take notice as he announces what he is proposing to do to drinkers, smokers and users of petrol. By the time he sits down, it is a near certainty that with regard to one of those categories Mr Lamont will have missed the point.

He will be in good company: since the dangers of cigarettes became apparent, no Chancellor has shown the slightest understanding of how people might be put off smoking. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has been lobbying for a duty increase of double what would be justified by inflation as an inducement for smokers to give up. Mr Waldegrave also misses the point.

Smoking and Aids have been the dominant health issues of the past decade. The government's policy for Aids focuses on prevention through education. Smoking policy is concentrated almost exclusively on penal taxation. Since

the fiscal year 1985-86 the government campaign against Aids has contributed £62 million to advertising, £350 million to local authorities and regional health authorities for Aids-related services, £8 million to the voluntary sector, £31 million over five years to the Medical Research Council and £16.75 million in support of the World Health Organisation's global Aids programme.

During the same period, government spending on attempts to stop people smoking consist of a five-year campaign, launched in late 1989 and costing £2 million a year, to show teenagers the dangers. An additional unspecified sum has been spent on a pamphlet launched in 1985 and updated yearly since. The total Health Education Council anti-smoking budget is £5 million a year. So, £467.75 million has been

spent on fighting Aids, a high proportion of that figure on prevention. The prevention of smoking gets loose change. Some may argue that the duty income from tobacco is so vast that the government pays only lip service to prevention, but this is unconvincing. However suspect the motivation of politicians, it would take cynicism on the grand scale to believe that governments kill people in exchange for tax.

The truth is that smoking is so entrenched a habit that governments have taken on the psychological disposition of the smokers (and I speak as one). If Raleigh were to sail home with his tobacco leaves today, they would, as Virginia Bottomley has admitted, become a banned substance in the same way that far less harmful substances, notably cannabis, are banned. There is no sense in this differentiation, but it continues

because setting fire to tobacco leaves is "traditional".

The case for a radical policy towards smoking is overwhelming. The in-patient cost to the NHS of smoking-related diseases is running at £437 million a year, and on any given day 9,473 hospital beds are occupied by smokers. Smoking continues because nicotine is one of the world's most addictive drugs, and as such it will never be priced out of existence. To think that it can be is to misunderstand the scale of the addiction and the smoker's propensity for self-destruction, and self-delusion.

I am as irritated as any other smoker by the increasingly coy devices used to tell me that I cannot smoke ("thank you for not smoking" is the most obnoxious of these pre-emptive strikes) and I become as fretful as any persecuted minority when restaurants jam

me against walls in the corner farthest from the window.

But the game is up. Smokers need the kind of help given to Aids sufferers and heroin addicts. I am instinctively libertarian and opposed to most state intervention, but the case for banning cigarettes is at least as strong as for banning heroin. A truly radical government would announce a ban on cigarette sales starting in, say, two years. In the meantime various services, such as hypnotherapy (which is proven to work in many cases) would be put on the NHS.

Taken over the long term, the cost of doing that would be infinitely less than the present cost of treating smokers. And the spending programme would by definition be finite. To say that the price weapon will eventually work is to ignore the fact that, although adult smoking has decreased, the teenage smoking curve has been flat for the past eight years. Nothing Mr Lamont can do tomorrow will alter that. Smokers need to be stopped, not taxed, and for society's benefit, not just their own.

Last exit for history's extras?

The impending cull of our greatest biographical work should spare the little people, says Ben Macintyre

GM. Trevelyan described *The Dictionary of National Biography* as "the best record of a nation's past that any civilisation has produced". It was an extravagant assertion, in keeping with the Victorian hubris of the dictionary itself, but true nevertheless: for the DNB stands, along with Murray's *Oxford English Dictionary*, as one of the two great pillars of British culture, an integral part of the nation's mental furniture.

Last week Oxford University Press announced that the time had come to begin the daunting task of revising and updating the 22 volumes that make up the original DNB. The process will be lengthy (at least ten years), expensive (an estimated £2 million) and, by its nature, Sisyphean.

Reassessment was overdue. There is much in the DNB that is redundant, inaccurate and prolix. Some of it is heroically dull. There is an indigestible if unsurprising surfeit of diplomats, clerics, colonial administrators, the titled and the merely privileged, coupled with a paucity of women, engineers, scientists, crooks and poets. Yet, for all its inadequacies, it remains an enduring work of period literature and a unique documentary testament to the national character. It no longer provides what its authors intended, "full, accurate and concise biographies of all noteworthy inhabitants of the British Islands and the colonies (exclusive of living persons) from the earliest historical period to the present day" — but therein lies its glory.

The dictionary is a place of serendipitous pleasures, a work of entertainment now, as much as education. If the new edition brings a more probing prosopographical eye to bear on the dictionary, so much the better. If it means that future generations will be shielded from some of the most fascinating, if inconsequential, people in our history, then so much the worse.

The creation of a dictionary of



national biography was the inspiration of George Smith, proprietor of Smith, Elder, publishers, a businessman of vision and deep pockets. His first intention had been to create a dictionary of universal biography, from which "wild attempts" he was dissuaded by Leslie Stephen, father of Virginia Woolf and the literary critic, historian and scholar whose personality more than any other shaped the DNB.

The notion of history as biography was not new, but the

one considers that the French *Dictionnaire de Biographie Française*, started at much the same time, has just reached J. Stephen was under no illusions about the size and complexity of the labour; the strain of editing what he called "a diabolical piece of machinery" would finally result in his nervous collapse. Many of the entries were written by Stephen himself, or his tireless and grumpy co-editor, Sidney Lee. Between them they developed a biographical style, part acid eulogism, part tempered eulogy, that has been handed down to contributors and editors of supplementary volumes and is one of the dictionary's joys.

The selection of subjects was dictated by the social as well as the political mores of the editors: subjects had not only to be great and good, but respectable and usually male. While Stephen attended to the grander personages, to Lee was left the task of illumi-

nating the often rather dowdy lives of what Stephen called "the second rate people". It was Lee who was largely responsible for the peculiar peers and rum clergy-men, the career diplomats and middlemen of empire — the lesser worthies, obsolete but intriguing still, that give the DNB its unique character and over whom the editorial axe is now poised.

From first Abbadie, Jacques (1654-1727) to last Zuylenstein, William Henry, Fourth Earl of Rochford (1717-1781) the DNB succeeds in turning apparently unedifying biography into fascinating history. Its use as reference may have diminished, but its capacity to entertain has not.

Abbadie is a good example. Dean of Kilisnoe, preacher and Christian apologist, his life was on the surface mundane. Yet he develops, in the space of a few paragraphs, a distinct character. "Relying upon a remarkable memory, he put off writing until copy was demanded by the printer." A serious fault, in the eyes of Stephen and Lee. He was "not too sedulous", we note, "for he was frequently absent from his benefice". What was he doing? Similarly Zuylenstein, a fop who once "appeared in a set of birthday clothes with the Duke of Cumberland's head on every large plate button", introduced Lombardy poplars into the country.

Between them lie an extraordinary wealth of personalities, of which every browser has a favourite. My own is David Ochterlony Dyce-Somre (1808-1851), described merely as "an eccentric character", the descendant of a Indian cabin and a Strasbourg carpenter nicknamed Somre due to his sour demeanour. He inherited a fortune, was unseated as an MP for "gross, systematic and extensive bribery", and was eventually "put under restraint as a lunatic at the Clarendon Hotel". Like many in the DNB, he is not important, merely fascinating.

Some treasures must inevitably perish in the cull, and, judging by the record of editors of the supplementary volumes, the revisions will be carried out with judgment and humour. But it is a painful prospect. They can take Abbadie, they can even take Zuylenstein. But let them not touch Dyce-Somre.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

It is the eleventh hour. The ink may have dried on the voters' roll, or brain-dead, or both. Now one for citizens of all ages: an incentive, not a penalty. Environmentally friendly products, such as lead-free petrol, enjoy tax breaks already, but some politicians go further: they propose similar incentives for manufacturers whose packaging is environmentally friendly, so that (for instance) tax breaks are extended to packagers who use biodegradable wrappers or containers that are reusable.

But what about containers that are unopenable? There must be a way that a packet of nuts can be made accessible to a person of normal intelligence, and it cannot be a law of nature that little cartons of UHT milk must explode when probed. To invent a carton that really pours should be within the wit of man. But we always forget which brands to avoid, remembering only that we often have difficulty with nuts: so consumer choice breaks down.

The problem merits a small interfering tweak by government. The fact I can assure ministers that this is of far greater concern to most citizens than whether the West Midlands is to have its own regional assembly. A tax on inaccessible peanuts tomorrow would raise the Commons roof-top by the cheer that followed.

Imperfections in the free market are the cause of another difficulty the Chancellor should address. There is no mechanism to stop BBC local radio stations mentioning local government.

of thing is either a poll tax dodger and off the voters' roll, or brain-dead, or both.

There should be. Nobody is interested in local government. Arrangements exist for payment to be made whenever copyright is infringed, so it should be simple to trigger a similar payment — this time to the Exchequer — whenever any news regarding local government, or the opinion of any local councillor on any matter at all, is broadcast.

"Turning now," (as the Chancellor might say) "to national radio, I propose a similar levy, hopefully prohibitive, on the broadcasting by BBC Radio 2 of *Sing Something Simple*." (Shouts of "hooray!")

"Hon Members will recall the sinking heart with which, from early childhood, the strains of *Sing Something Simple* have been greeted, as radio listeners face another dreary Sunday afternoon..."

My final proposal is frankly more of a fine than a tax: but one that should yield vast new revenues. For the duration of the general election campaign, any parliamentary candidate who begins any sentence with the phrase "The fact of the matter is..." should be obliged to make a pro-rata contribution to a fund calculated to match the sums MPs are planning to nick from us in their dreadful new nationalised lottery.

Isn't it funny how the word "national" has such different vibrations from the word "nationalised", yet I'm blown if I'm clear as to the distinction. Perhaps Mr Lamont could explain tomorrow?

Ecumenical heaven

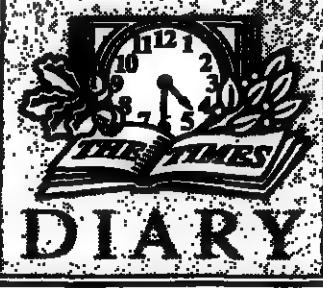
ANGLO-CATHOLIC relations, ever more cordial, will pass a new milestone this Friday when Cardinal Basil Hume preaches a sermon in the presence of the Queen. Historians, including the Rev Edward Norman, dean of chapel at Christ Church Canterbury, believe this will be the first time a monarch has been publicly preached to by an English cardinal since the 17th century.

Cardinal Hume will be at a gathering with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the heads of other churches to mark the opening of Milton Keynes's ecumenical church, the City Church of Christ the Cornerstone. "It is an historic occasion," says the church's canon, David Goldie. The Oxford historian Dr Geoffrey Rowell says:

"The fact of the matter is..."

"Hon Members will recall the sinking heart with which, from early childhood, the strains of *Sing Something Simple* have been greeted, as radio listeners face another dreary Sunday afternoon..."

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a trend towards accommodation. "Anglo-Catholic relations really have been transformed and now that we have sorted out social links we have to move on to confront the big issues, such as authority in the church and women's ordination."

Harmony, however, will probably stop outside the doors of the church, where indignant journalists from the religious newspapers, excluded from the service, will be waiting. Peter Stanford, editor of *The Catholic Herald* says: "They've shot themselves in the foot by ensuring none of us is there at this very important event. It's not as if we're from *Sunday Sport* and are going to waltz down the aisle topos."

Shady Georgians have every reason to fear the return of Eduard Shevardnadze to his homeland: he was ruthless in purging mafia bosses and exposing corruption as the republic's party chief in the 1970s. At one central committee meeting, just as a vote was being taken, Shevardnadze turned to his colleagues and said: "Please raise your hands a little higher." When the comrades duly obliged Shevardnadze observed: "Will all those whose Western gold watches have been exposed, kindly remove them and explain how you came by them."

Beams and moats

BUCKENHAM CASTLE in Norfolk, Britain's oldest Norman keep, has for 800 years been able to repel the attentions of unwelcome visitors, thanks to a moat 30ft wide, 6ft deep and extremely muddy. Suddenly, the moat has disappeared.

"Somebody's nicked our moat," says John Holland, who looks after the castle for the owners, Mr and Mrs Peter Stimpson. The Stimpsons are blaming the National Rivers Authority, which opened a borehole near the castle two years ago to supply water from Norfolk to areas suffering from drought. "It's a bit like a bath," says Holland, "if you pull the plug all the water flows away."

By the terms of the Water Resources Act, sites of archaeological interest are protected from interference. The river authority maintains that the drought, not the borehole, has drained the moat, but have agreed to stop pumping to "monitor the situation".

Anyone hoping to take advantage of lowered defences to storm the castle will face an alternative obstacle. The moat has been transformed into a dense patch of stinging nettles.

Level Pegging

PEGGY NOONAN, the speechwriter recently hired by George Bush, may find it hard to raise sufficient steam to give Bush's Republican rival Pat Buchanan the required rhetorical roasting. Noonan, who wrote many of President Reagan's most memorable one-liners, turns out to be a staunch admirer of Buchanan.

In her political memoirs she recalls Buchanan with "affection and real regard. He holds a special place in the conservative community in Washington. He is neither

hombastic nor especially combative. He tends to speak softly. The public might guess that a hard-guy conservative like Pat would be no friend to women, but he was the most energetic promoter of women." She respects Buchanan for "his integrity and advice" and describes him as "one of the grand old men of the [conservative] movement".

Either Bush has not read her book, or she is hedging her bets, or both.

● *The choice of Henry Purcell's Rondo as the theme tune for the Conservative election campaign may be more auspicious for a fourth term than even Tory Central Office hopes. According to Robert King, an expert on the composer's works, the melody includes an episode in the relative major, passes into the dominant, and is repeated four times.*

Two for the road

SCIENTISTS, it might be thought, would not queue to seek a share of the credit for inventing Sir Charles Sinclair's ill-fated C5. But with Sinclair back in the news on an electric bicycle, one of his fellow inventors, Tony Wood Rogers, has been emboldened to claim his bit of glory.

In 1980 Clive asked me to work on the concept of an electric car," he says. After many years' collaboration the C5 was the result. "I've been living it down ever since."

Nothing daunted, Wood Rogers helped Sinclair devise the concept of the new Zike. "I told Clive it was not fair that he is getting all the glory for the inventions, although to be fair he did go ahead and put the ideas into production." Wood Rogers is now planning to make his own headlines. "I am designing an electric boat. It will be the Sinclair of the waves."



OUT OF PROPORTION

Does Labour really believe in proportional representation, or is the party ready to promise anything for a few Liberal Democrat votes? Labour's weekend proposal for a Speaker's conference on electoral reform would appear to be the latter. A Speaker's conference does not bind a government. It means nothing, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal leader, was quite right to insist that he would not be "fobbed off" with it.

The case against proportional representation in Britain is as strong today as ever. The old arguments still hold. It inclines governments to coalition, to weakness and vacillation. While first-past-the-post gives "unfair" power to majority parties, PR gives it to minority parties and as such is even more unfair. PR fractures the democratic bond between elected representative and constituency, a bond in which much good still lies in protecting the citizen against the state. These arguments are reinforced by new arguments specific to British politics in the 1990s.

First, the problem to which proportional representation was meant to be the "solution" has diminished. Politics in the 80s was polarised between two parties deeply divided in ideology and policy. Now it is polarised only between two men claiming to be better able to manage a social market economy. On defence, on economic policy, on the role of the market and on the welfare state, there are differences of emphasis and technique. But there is no divide so deep that a complete change of regime is too costly to the community or the economy.

Second, though the Liberal centre in British politics can claim credit for shifting both big parties onto the middle ground, it achieved this often since the war and on the basis of a single constituency franchise. To reward the Liberal Democrats for acting as a moderating force by putting them after each election in the position of choosing who shall form a government is absurd.

Third, while the party seen as most benefiting from PR has been the Liberal Democrats, similar leverage is likely to be granted to other minority parties, notably in Ulster, Wales and Scotland. Such leverage, as was seen in the Callaghan government, is

seriously-distorting and extremely unfair. It won Ulster more seats, protected Scotland's over-representation, and skewed public spending towards the Celtic fringe. Depending on the form of PR adopted, Britain could find itself saddled with a "coalition of extremes", of the sort that blights politics in countries such as Israel and Ireland.

Fourth, PR on ministerial systems would give more power to national parties. They would increasingly choose candidates. Their power to exclude the awkward and the eccentric would be increased: no more Tony Marlow, Dennis Skinner, Winterton and Livingstones and Cyril Smiths. The hegemony of the whips would be strengthened, rebellion crushed, the individual sacrificed on the altar of the collective. There is a safety valve against party dictatorship in the link between an MP and a single-member constituency. This relationship, rooted in local candidate selection, should be strengthened not weakened.

Fifth, any constitutional reform should be directed at pluralising the British constitution, not further centralising it. Coalition governments are less susceptible than polarising ones to exits and entrances, to changes in personnel and to fresh air. A general election offers a choice of a completely new cast. Presidential constitutions offer this, when they bring in different parties from those dominant in a legislature. In Britain Downing Street (Nos 10, 11 and 12) embraces every aspect of the public sector, from public corporation chairmen to arts sponsorship to the awarding of honours. Britain does not need to concentrate more power on fewer people.

Even in a hung parliament, the country is surely safe from this nonsense. A party once in power has no interest in sharing that power with minority parties and policies. Most MPs do not represent marginal seats. Most will remain MPs until they themselves choose to resign. They are disinclined to any electoral reform that might undermine their security or put them further in thrall to party. If Labour has an overall majority after the election, its MPs will ditch PR as soon as they decently can.

REBUILDING THE ENGINEER

The Times continues its series of editorials on Thatcherism's "forgotten supply side", the professions. This week, engineering; next week, the architects

A chip-on-the-shoulder has long been standard equipment for the British engineer. He (rarely she) knows he is both noble and essential but does not think he is often seen as such. Members of the largest profession in Britain are now being urged by their leaders to submit their profession to a complete redesign. This would alter every engineering career and rationalise the 46 bodies now organising the profession in Britain. All engineers would come under one institution.

No other profession in this series faces reform of comparable scope. None has greater need. The obstacles in the way would tax the ingenuity of a Brunel. At the apex of the profession are 200,000 chartered engineers, with a three-year degree and four years of practical training under their belts. Recognition is granted by the Engineering Council, an underpowered body set up by royal charter in 1981 after the Finiston Report. This council also registers 60,000 incorporated engineers and 17,000 engineering technicians, the chartered engineers' junior partners.

Engineers are also divided horizontally by specialisation, each with its own institution or equivalent. The senior of these 46 bodies is the Institution of Civil Engineers, founded in 1818 (ten years before the Law Society). Such bodies lie at the heart of British engineering, as the names of such founders as Telford of the canals and Stephenson of the mechanicals bear witness.

What is now urged is that engineering should integrate both vertically and horizontally, with the present boundaries based on seniority and/or specialisation replaced by open frontiers. There would still be regulation of qualifications but — of interest to the public — there would be swifter retaliation against professional failure. Engineers whose work contributes to a disaster would be called to account other than by negligence suits.

In January the "council of presidents" of the 46, convened by the Engineering Council's new chairman, Sir John Fairclough, initiated the search for a new structure. Sir John called on the various professional groups to overcome "parishian considerations" and agree on one new body which could take the lead. Sir James Hamilton was named to lead a steering group to prepare proposals within a year.

Modern technology knows nothing of the difference between a mechanical and an electrical engineer. The idling speed of a modern internal combustion engine will be regulated by a microchip on a printed circuit. Modern aircraft fly by wire. Physics, electronics and computer science dominate every aspect of the career. This convergence dictates a more multi-disciplinary approach to education: such as devoting the first two years of a three-year course to a grounding in general principles before specialising in the third year.

Vertical integration is also essential. Many engineers now believe that there should be a natural career ladder from the technician to incorporated to chartered grades, ending the present unwritten class system and beginning the admission of junior grades to full professional status. It is now widely accepted that "continuing professional development" (CPD) is essential. Thus a degree is one stage in a training programme which should last a lifetime.

Paradoxically, this convergence in education and practice has come just as the proliferation of professional institutions sug-

gests a fragmentation. There are plant engineers, structural engineers and building service engineers; there are highway engineers and road transport engineers. Each group has its governing body. Many of these institutes have royal charters, enabling senior engineers to award each other copious professional qualifications and honours. One engineer may call himself BSc CEng FIMarE FRINA FICS CDipAF. Another may be FEng FIMechE FIFGSE FInstPet FIQA FRSA CBIM. As if to emphasise the viscosity of this alphabet soup, the latest fashionable qualification awarded by the Engineering Council's European equivalent, "European engineer", actually goes before the name: Eurling Joe Spammer.

Such ridiculous and grandiose titles have become a psychological compensation for the British engineer's lack of respect among his contemporaries, as compared with engineers abroad. The household names of British engineering — Brunel and Stephenson, Whittle and Watson-Watt, Faraday and Baird — come from the past. The public can name leading contemporary architects, lawyers, even surgeons. How many could name Sir James Hamilton as the chief engineer of the Concorde? How many could identify the designer of the Severn Bridge or the M1 or the High Speed Train?

This public neglect is part of what Sir John Fairclough recently called a "crisis of confidence" among British engineers. This must partly reflect the mess that engineers have made of their own affairs. But what bothers them is a perceived class bias against "work with grubby hands", engineering as unfit employment for a gentleman. John Major won himself engineering votes when he said he wanted to "change that culture", so that engineers employed in Britain the same status as they had in Germany. Only thus will they attract brighter students and higher salaries.

The self-doubt is understandable. A shudder went through British engineering when the Lords committee on science and technology reported in 1991 that productive industry was no longer at the heart of the British economy. Some engineers may work in the service sector, but for the great majority of them that is not where their vocation lies. They are makers and doers, not traders and servicers. The select committee seemed to imply that the country no longer needed them (though the committee disagreed).

Yet the decline of British manufacturing is partly attributable to the inadequacy of British engineers, their complacency with second best of today as they bask in the excellence of yesterday. The public do not owe engineers a living, and roundly curse them when they appear to inflate the costs of public projects such as motorways, new railways and nuclear power stations. Engineering cannot rely on government for salvation. It must reform itself in response to market forces, competing and adapting to changing consumer needs in Britain and on the Continent. Engineers must "make themselves necessary" by making themselves better.

The omens are good. The profession has reacted robustly to what it sees as a crisis. The leaders are proposing the greatest dismantling of internal professional barriers yet seen, in marked contrast to other professions under similar threat in the market place. If they achieve this, they will deserve all the status they crave.

Help for a shop called Anastasia

From Mrs Ekaterina Likhoda

Sir, For a long time I have been wondering how to contact you. With the help of my friends, I am trying to start my own business in Russia. I am 35, and have three marvellous daughters, so I have to do something to secure their future. Under present conditions of life in our country, it has become possible to undertake entrepreneurial activity. I have decided to start up in trade and open my own shop to sell goods in high demand.

I would very much like to help my town and myself. Although I was trained as a sales worker, "business" is something absolutely new to me, and indeed not only to me. In our country there are many people who have no idea where to begin, and the complete lack of anything is making it difficult for them to set up their own business.

I am addressing this urgent request to your readers: if you have any time for me, please tell me the secrets of how you got started (provided, of course, these are not secrets). I would much like to receive information on how business is organised and the principles on which trade must be built — which in your country is called "marketing".

Despite having read a lot of literature on this subject I cannot find anything suitable for me. I am interested not so much in the profit as in the wish to open a shop, my own shop, which could satisfy top-class requirements. It will be called "Anastasia", the name of my third daughter. I will sell everything that I can get my hands on.

Unfortunately I can offer nothing at the moment in return except my friendship. I and my daughters invite you as guests. I await replies with interest.

Yours faithfully,
EKATERINA LIKHODA,
622016 CIS Russia,
Sverdlovsk Region,
Nizhniy Tagil,
Ul. Krasnoarmeyskaya 147, Kv. 60.
□ This letter has been translated from the Russian.

Aspects of food

From Mr Jean Seferi and Mr Egon Ronay

Sir, The Prince of Wales's address to the Association France-Grande Bretagne in Paris (report, March 3), condemning bureaucratic interference with the methods of making time-honoured farm cheeses, was most timely. The banner of "health" is being increasingly abused in respect of food products far beyond cheeses.

Often unwarranted bureaucratic rules, born at desks and dining tables, are seized upon by busybodies and food "terrorists" who strike fear in the public and ignore all too frequent contradictions in scientific and medical conclusions. The public is misled into eating food not for pleasure but for supposed health reasons, instead of enjoying the God-given fruits of gastronomy with a clear conscience.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN SEFERI,
(President, L'Académie des Gastronomes, Paris),
EGON RONAY (President),
The British Academy of Gastronomes,
37 Walton Street, SW3.

From Mrs William Waldegrave

Sir, As the chairman of the Guild of Food Writers I must respond to James Le Fanu's accusation ("Deceived by dubious diets", March 4) that the Guild's connections are all with the left. Mine, Sir, lie in a different direction.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE WALDEGRAVE,
The Guild of Food Writers,
Glen House,
125 Old Brompton Road, SW7.

Missing days

From the Reverend A. N. B. Towse

Sir, The day after reading "Confessions of a bisexual" by Caroline Moore (article, February 29) I was in St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden, and noticed an example of the loss of 11 days from the calendar.

The memorial inscription to Matthew Wallace, Vicar from 1763 to 1771, states that he was born on the 28th of October 1728 and died on the 14th of November 1771 "aged forty three years and six days".

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY N. B. TOWSE,
3 Oaks Road, Tenterden, Kent.
March 2.

Better late

From Mr Michael Jackson

Sir, Janet Daley ("Only a fringe attraction", March 3) brings together a battery of complaints against *The Late Show*: it is, she says, "trendy", "feminist", "liberal" and, worst of all "avant-garde".

If making imaginative television, which is interested in the new and the challenging is avant-garde, then we plead guilty. However, Daley asks a serious question: what is the role of a television arts department? The best way to answer is by reference to what we actually do, rather than to prejudice.

"*The Late Show*", says Daley, "absorbs most of BBC Television arts budget": it actually accounts for less than one fifth. We spend most of our

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Strategy for London's royal parks

From the Presidents of the Landscape Institute and the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, The royal parks review group has presented an outstanding report for the future strategy for Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (details, February 21). As presidents of the Institutes intimately involved with the implementation of such a strategy, we applaud it and especially the commitment it makes to quality and excellence. But we also have concerns.

Long-term plans for the royal parks have been prepared before but have been left to gather dust in the depths of Marsham Street. The demolition of Marsham Street may well bury these for good. Such a fate could await the present report unless the following conditions obtain:

1. The report is endorsed openly and positively by the present and any incoming government.
2. The proposed royal parks agency must have the status to operate at arm's length from the government.
3. Government needs to make a long-term commitment to any agreed programme of works and improvements, to provide the proper level of resources, and to ensure

inspired management; and it should resist seeing income generation as the key source of funding.

4. An advisory body to the agency must be established, with a duty to publish an annual report.

These conditions are a prerequisite for success; but success will only come through the engagement of professional skills with vision, flair and enthusiasm in planning and design. The leader of the design team implementing the study must have a key role in the agency. It matters not from which profession he or she is drawn. Quality and excellence are unlikely to be achieved under committee direction; strong creative design leadership is essential.

Lastly, we make a plea that the remit of the review groups should be similarly extended to all the royal parks, particularly the more distant Greenwich, Richmond and Bushy parks.

Yours etc.,
HUGH CLAMP, President,
Landscape Institute,
MICHAEL WELBANK, President,
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
March 6.

Doctor's dilemma

From Professor Denis Pereira Gray

Sir, May I take issue with your interesting editorial (March 2) on two points. First, medical education, at least in vocational training for general practice, has been innovative and includes in many schemes interactive small group work, random case and problem case analysis. Far from there being "little instruction in... community medicine or in human relations", the whole focus of the learning is on understanding human relations in the community, i.e. homes and families.

Secondly, it is a fallacy, originally perpetrated by Lord Moran in 1958, that many young doctors entering general practice have stepped or fallen off "the consultancy ladder". Most young doctors entering general practice do so, after proper training in hospital and in training general practices, because they see the possibility of practising medicine in the most personal way possible, with the greatest variety, and with huge research potential.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS PEREIRA GRAY,
Director,
Postgraduate Medical School,
University of Exeter,
Barnack Road, Exeter, Devon.
March 2.

Church and homeless

From the Right Reverend Ronald Bowlby and others

Sir, Last month the Church of England's Synod passed a resolution calling for greater effort by the Church and by the government to ease the problems of homelessness.

A group of senior individuals from the Church met on the same day and, in supporting the resolution, agreed that as the Duke of Edinburgh's housing enquiry showed, Britain's housing problems have been caused by an over-emphasis on home ownership, fuelled by tax incentives and a lack of investment in rented housing; that government support needs to be targeted on less affluent homeowners — some of whom now face mortgage repossessions — and on boosting the supply of rented homes; and that the Church has opportunities at national and diocesan level, while acting

prudently in the use of its assets, to assist housing associations who are seeking to buy land.

Many thousands of people from all the churches are supporting local housing initiatives in a voluntary capacity. We commend their work.

After the general election, we hope that the government will give a special emphasis to overcoming what we believe to be the most acute social need facing less affluent people in rural as well as urban areas — the need for a decent home.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BOWLBY,
DAVID LONDIN,
JAMES BATH AND WELLS,
RICHARD O'BRIEN
(Vice-Chairman,
The Church Urban Fund),
4 Uppington Avenue,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
March 4.

Fukuyama debate

From Mr Stephen Ivan Griffiths

Sir, I was fortunate enough to attend *The Times*/Dillons Francis Fukuyama debate at the Institute of Education in London on Thursday (report, March 6). It proved to be a very stimulating occasion, well worth the long trip from Leeds.

It was a bold experiment for a newspaper to attempt to promote serious debate on "big issues" in a country where the political debate has been of two often false, parochial, anti-intellectual and just plain boring.

When was the last time that a debate that included extensive references to the works of Nietzsche and Hegel held in Britain, and attended by a thousand people? The organisers should be congratulated for putting on such an event. I hope there will be many more.

Yours sincerely,
S. GRIFFITHS,
The University of Leeds,
Institute for International Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
March 6.

money on the files of the Prons and Onibus, which this season alone, has covered Malcolm Arnold, Pablo Casals, the RSC and Benny Hill and has been watched by audiences of over seven million. *Bookmark* has rediscovered Barbara Pym and Angus Wilson and, later this month, BBC2 will be dominated for a week by a series of accessible programmes about Rembrandt.

The Late Show is designed to go out late at night. It is targeted (just as *The Times* is targeted) and its audience is roughly the same size as the circulation of *The Times*. It seeks to be intelligent and, yes, sometimes it deals with complexities this week, for example, it has devoted a whole programme to Francis Fukuyama.

We have had Simon Rattle on the music curriculum and Jung Chang

Assisted places

From Mr Nigel Austin

Sir, Your leader on the assisted places scheme (February 28) has now met with predictably indignant remarks from apologists for the scheme in the independent sector (letters, March 2).

Significantly, none of them makes reference to the indisputable point of principle which is at the heart of objections to it.

This is that the government should support, in a fair and equitable manner, all pupils educated at taxpayers' expense, by properly funding a state system — and should be seen to be doing so.

The very existence of the scheme, whatever may be the grounds on which the pupils are chosen, represents a clear statement from the government that it does not believe in the public system which it so inadequately finances.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL AUSTIN,
62 Mellstock Avenue,
Dorchester, Dorset,
March 3.

on persecution in communist China. Sally Bauman, Melvyn Bragg and D. M. Thomas have discussed the difficulties of writing about sex. We have more female presenters than any other television magazine programme. If this is in danger of being "feminist" — sorry!

Reflecting our culture honestly requires strong views and interesting people: *The Late Show* meets this test four times a week. I hope that Janet Daley will be back soon for her seventh appearance.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL JACKSON
(Head of Music and Arts,
BBC Television,
Kensington House,
Shepherd's Bush, W12,
March 6.

Budget chance to save smokers

From Mrs E. D. Skinner

Sir, The government's white paper on *The Health of the Nation*, now a casualty of the election campaign, was widely expected to announce a new target for reducing the national epidemic of premature deaths and illnesses caused by tobacco. Its currently expected target of 20 per cent would require reductions of 13 and 10 per cent among men and women respectively.

Despite the shelving of the health document, the approach of both No Smoking Day (March 11) and the Budget makes it highly topical to consider the implications of such a target and ways in which the reductions could be achieved.

Last month, William Waldegrave ruled out a tobacco advertising ban for "five to six years" (report, February 20), and although the government is committing more funds to education about smoking in pregnancy, no significant increase has been announced for other health education on smoking. This leaves fiscal policy as the main line of action. Mr Waldegrave endorsed this at the launch when he said that tobacco price was the most powerful means of reducing smoking.

A public attitudes survey in 1988 showed that the majority of people, including smokers, favour tobacco price increases. Elasticity of demand means that an increase of 1 per cent reduces consumption by about 0.5 per cent, and there is evidence that a price rise may be even more effective in reducing teenage smoking.

In economic terms, an average smoker who gives up will save about £750 a year, which corresponds to a pay rise of £1,100 a year: if he or she is on an average wage, with a single person's tax allowance, the money gained from quitting is equivalent to a cut in income tax of about 10 pence in the pound. Even when the reduced consumption is taken into account, the government will still gain financially from regular tax increases and will have some years in which to adjust for the eventual loss of revenue.

If tobacco consumption falls by the expected one third, in due course about 35,000 lives will be saved each year in the United Kingdom. A 10 per cent tax increase on the cost of cigarettes (about 20p on each pack) would be convincing evidence of the government's determination to match words with action and would be greatly welcomed by the 14 voluntary and public sector organisations of this committee.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SKINNER
(Chairman, No Smoking Day
Organising Committee),
Cancer Research Campaign,
2 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,
March 5.

Holbein portrait

From Mr I. A. Shapiro

Sir, The Houghton Hall Holbein now for sale is a portrait. Portraits normally are not "painted for the world" (leading article, February 29), but either for the sinner or the portraitist's commission.

The woman portrayed is evidently English, facially and in costume. Her face and head-dress are closely similar to those in Holbein's drawing of Cicely, daughter of Sir Thomas More and wife of Giles Heron (Windsor Castle 12269). If not Cicely Heron, this sinner is certainly her contemporary, and probably a member of the More circle.

The portrait is part of Britain's heritage and should be retained here. "They order this matter better in France" whose government moves promptly to secure for the nation anything of its *patrimoine*, even when its artistic level is low.

The portrait in question here is at the pinnacle of artistic achievement. Our government recently has been able to find hundreds of millions for various projects; need it balk at £15 million for this Holbein portrait?

Yours etc.,
I. A. SHAPIRO,
The Shakespeare Institute,
The University of Birmingham,
Birmingham B15 2RX,
March 2.

March hare madness

From Mr Bernard W. Riley and Mr David Brokensha

Sir, Early yesterday morning, Shrove Tuesday, walking along a public footpath close to Sherborne Castle, we witnessed an extraordinary sight.

In a field grazed by ewes and new spring lambs, a procession of six hares ran headlong in single file, and in full uninterrupted view, into the middle of the large expanse. Abruptly they stopped simultaneously, and ran in a closed clockwise circle: stopped again in unison to run anticlockwise for a longer period; then dashed off, again in single file, to the cover of a fenced copse.

Was this, we wondered, Mardi Gras madness, pre-Lenten polka or rutting in the round?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD W. RILEY,
DAVID BROKENSHA,
Tanhaval House,
96 Newland, Sherborne, Dorset,
March 4.

Business letters, page 19

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

OBITUARIES

ART BABBITT

Art Babbitt, film animator, died in Hollywood on March 4 aged 84. He was born on October 8, 1907, in Omaha, Nebraska.

ARTHUR Babbitt created the dancing mushrooms in Walt Disney's *Fantasia* and was responsible for the lasting fame of the cartoon character Goofy. In a film career that spanned six decades, from some of the earliest sound cartoons to *The Thief and the Cobbler*, which is due for release this autumn, Arthur Babbitt became one of the most respected figures in an exclusive field.

He first gained attention for his work at the early Disney studio, animating *The Three Little Pigs* (1933) and the *Seven Dwarfs* (1937) — which proved a breakthrough in personality animation. He was animation director on *Pinocchio* (1940), creating Geppetto the wood carver, and was also responsible for the stork in *Dumbo* (1941).

Obligated to support his family when his father was paralysed, Babbitt worked as a commercial artist for the Paul Terry Studio in New York at the age of 16. When talking pictures were introduced two years earlier, the brief was "don't make it good, make it fast" but Babbitt, who became a professional animator in 1929, was never happy with that credo. He first joined the Terry-toons Studio on Long Island, New York, and three years later took a one-way ticket to Los Angeles to work for Walt Disney, where he was quickly promoted from assistant animator to animator.

Babbitt would film his Disney colleagues playing volleyball in the lunch break with his 16mm camera, then study their actions to create a new fluidity on the screen. In doing so he obtained rare footage of Disney himself during that period.

His drawing of the drunken mouse in *The Country Cousin* won a 1936 Oscar for Disney. Babbitt was fascinated with movement and analysis of character and it was he who turned Goofy from a minor character



Art Babbitt and two of his cartoon creations, Goofy and Geppetto the carpenter from *Pinocchio*



into a star, thus becoming known at the studio as Father of Goofy.

While Babbitt acknowledged that animation would never have developed without Walt Disney's vision, he did not like Disney and was critical of the studio's subject matter. He wished the medium would gain greater maturity. "How many times do we have to watch Jack and the Beanstalk?" he would say. "What about Molière?"

As one of the top Disney men, he lived well throughout the Depression but was fired for leading a strike at the studio. The strike resulted in the Cartoonists Guild becoming the bargaining agent for the studio's workers. Disney was ordered to give Babbitt his job back, but by that

time he was serving in the US Marines. Always a fighter, he was also proud of the fact that, having been illegally fired by Disney for his union activities, he personally took Disney to the Supreme Court, and won.

When the war in the Pacific started, Babbitt was drafted into the non-combat movie section of the army, along with Ronald Reagan. After three days, the animator refused to be part of it and, in spite of his bad eyesight, managed to become a marine. He served in Guam, and was very proud of having attained a top secret clearance, especially since, after his union activities, he had been branded by his enemies as a "suspect lefty".

He returned after the war and working for Disney until 1947. He then became a freelance animator.

Later at Hanna-Barbera Studios, Babbitt became director of the commercial department and won more than 80 awards for his television advertisements. In 1974 he received the Winsor McCay trophy, the highest honour of the International Animation Film Society, which is now setting up an Art Babbitt fund for young animators. He also taught classes at Richard Williams Animation in London.

Babbitt, who was briefly married to Marjorie Belcher, the model for Snow White, is survived by his second wife, Barbara Perry, and three daughters.



ROLPH SCHWARZENBERGER

Rolph Schwarzenberger, professor of mathematics at the University of Warwick, died at the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, on February 29, aged 56. He was born on February 7, 1936.

IN THE past decade Rolph Schwarzenberger played a prominent role in mathematics education at a national level. As one-time president of the Mathematical Association and director of the Mathematics Education Research Centre at Warwick University, he became widely known for his keen analytical faculty and his frank honesty which gave no favour to friend or adversary.

Schwarzenberger's father was a professor of international law who came with his wife to England to escape Nazi oppression. Rolph Ludwig Edward Schwarzenberger was their only child, born three weeks into the short reign of Edward VIII, and given his third name after the king. From 1954 to 1959 he studied mathematics at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was awarded his PhD as the first research student of Michael Atiyah in 1960.

His early years were marked by his greatest academic successes. He was awarded the Rayleigh Prize in 1959, enjoyed a year of research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and a year as associate professor at Yale. He was one of the earliest visitors at the Bonn Sonderforschungsbereich-institut where he worked with F. Hirzebruch, subsequently translating and updating his treatise *Topological*



Methods in Algebraic Geometry.

After a period at Liverpool University as a lecturer in mathematics he was invited by Christopher Zeeman to become one of the founding group of mathematicians at the University of Warwick in 1965. The 1960s were heady days for universities, particularly for those with vision. The department of mathematics at Warwick flourished and became renowned as an international centre of excel-

lence. Schwarzenberger fulfilled the expectations placed upon him and was soon promoted to a professorship (1970), becoming chairman of the mathematics department (1972-75) and pro-vice chancellor (1974-78).

In this latter capacity one of his duties was to organise the negotiations for nearby Coventry College to merge with the university as the new faculty of educational studies. He kept the flame alive by

delicate and incisive negotiation as the local Labour council first supported, then opposed, the merger. The death of the lord mayor and the loss of his casting vote switched power briefly to the Conservative party, whose first act was to carry the merger through.

Sensing a new challenge, Schwarzenberger surprised everyone by embracing the fledgling faculty of educational studies and transferring as chairman of the newly constituted department of science education (1979-84), director of the mathematics education research centre (1986-91) and chairman of the education faculty board (1989-91).

He threw himself wholeheartedly into his new role, on a national level becoming president of the Mathematical Association (1983-84) and chairman of the UK Joint Mathematical Council (1984-87). In all of these he was valued for his integrity and relentless pursuit of principle. It was said that he always found it easier to be honest with people than to be nice to them. For this reason he was a valued friend and confidant whose advice was constantly sought on a wide variety of matters. He devoted a considerable amount of his time to sharing his knowledge and expertise with younger colleagues. His last months in hospital were filled with a never-ending stream of visitors who continued to seek his opinions, sensing that it was this preoccupation with the problems of others that made him most content.

He is survived by his wife Doris, and two sons, Paul and Alan.

SIR JOHN BOWES GRIFFIN

Sir John Griffin, former colonial law officer and Chief Justice of Uganda (1952-56) has died in retirement in Malta aged 88. He was born in Nyasaland (now Malawi) on April 19, 1903.

LIKE his father who was in the colonial legal service in Nyasaland, John Bowes Griffin had a distinguished legal career in the colonies. He was educated at Congowes and took his MA and LL.D at Dublin University. He was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1926 and, not having had three years' practical experience for a legal appointment, joined the Colonial Administrative Service as a cadet in Soroti, in the eastern province of Uganda. He transferred to the legal service a few years later. On arrival at Entebbe pier from Kisumu in 1926 (there was no railway to Kampala) he was met by his father, Sir Charles Griffin, the Chief Justice of Uganda whom John was destined to succeed 25 years later.

In 1936, he was appointed to the Bahamas as attorney-general and in October 1939 he went to Palestine as solicitor-general, where he was closely involved in the problem of the illegal immigration of Jews fleeing Hitler's Germany, and with the violence it led to. He narrowly missed being blown up in his office in the King David hotel on July 22, 1946, but lost many close friends and colleagues among the 91 victims. In November 1946 he went as attorney-general to Hong Kong, which was just emerging from Japanese occupation. He produced the Revised Laws of Hong Kong, which became known as the

"Griffin Edition", and in 1952 he was appointed Chief Justice of Uganda, an appointment he held until his retirement in 1956.

During his period under the governorship of Sir Andrew Cohen he was concerned with the legal aspects of the ending of the Kabaka from Buganda. Mutesa II had refused to accept the British government's proposal that Uganda should become a unitary state. Sir Edward Mutesa's return from exile in October 1962 followed a judgment by the Chief Justice that resulted in a compromise being achieved and the amendment of the Uganda Agreement. John Griffin was knighted in 1955.

After retirement from Uganda, he acted as Chief Justice in Northern Rhodesia in 1958, and then was appointed Speaker of the Uganda national assembly until 1963. Sir John was one of that valiant band of men who devoted their life and energies to improving the lot of the inhabitants of developing colonies. He did this with success and was proud of his achievements. With his intimate knowledge of colonial life, he was an outspoken critic of the opponents of colonialism. He often said that the East African Territories owed everything of value to an emergent state in the modern world to the benevolent colonialism that they had experienced.

His first marriage, in 1927, was to Eva Orrell Walsh, who died in 1977. In 1984 he married again to Margaret Leaver, who died last year. His two daughters by the first marriage survive him.

APPRECIATIONS

Stephen Lloyd

TO YOUR admirable obituary of Stephen Lloyd (March 3) there deserves to be added mention of yet one more of "his roles in public life": his great services to the Queen's College, Birmingham. Elected a life governor in 1940, he served on the council for an unbroken period of 45 years; for more than 20 of these he was chairman of the finance committee and, as the vice-president, the senior layman on the governing body.

During his time the responsibilities of both roles were unusually great. His business acumen enabled him to negotiate the sale, very much to the college's advantage, of the original premises in the centre of the city. But his even greater contribution came at the time of the union of Queen's with Handsworth Methodist College, to become the first ecumenical ministerial training college in the United Kingdom.

John Habgood, at that time the principal, now Archbishop of York, was the prime mover in the discussions, but Stephen's support meant that constitutional and financial obstacles were never allowed to hold up proceedings. Without him I suspect that some would have been content "to hasten slowly". As it was he was the great enabler.

A stalwart Anglican, he was, from the first, convinced that this bold move was the right way forward; his influence meant that the governing body acted with unanimity, and union was accomplished in an astonishingly short time. Its success since inauguration has made all participants the sadder at the rejection of Anglican-Methodist reunion.

We who were his colleagues during exciting years admired his resource, physical and spiritual, respected his judgment and the clarity of

his work in committee, appreciated the financial support he gave us in our various assignments, and deeply valued his friendship.

Canon R. G. Lunt

STEPHEN Lloyd became my chairman soon after I took up the directorship of the Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery in 1969, and, at a difficult time in the history of the museum, was a tower of strength. He was a brilliant fund-raiser and master tactician; it was largely due to his efforts that money was found for the preservation and res-



toration of the 18th century watermill, Sarehole Mill.

Long after his official retirement he continued to show a keen interest in the fine arts, as well as preparing a paper on the Suttantani Buddha, a superlative, near life-size bronze of the Gupta period, given to Birmingham in the 1860s. His apparent aloofness concealed a warm heart, and, once he had expressed a cause, an unstoppable resolution to carry the campaign through successfully. He belonged to the old Birmingham mercantile aristocracy, but was much respected and admired by fellow councillors of all shades of political opinion.

Dr Dennis Farr CBE

John Parry

BY CHANCE I read Clive Roslin's letter of appreciation of John Parry (obituary, February 7) and was overwhelmed by the need to add my voice — to his words.

John Parry gave me my first job when a teenager in Salisbury, and I worked for him from January 1949 to October 1950. I suspect the remarkable achievements and standards that he attained in southern Africa would be an impossible task for one person today.

I recall his commentary when the MCC played in

Salisbury, the visits of the original American touring company of *Oklahoma!*, interviewing Anton Dolin and Alicia Markova and, in the studio, recording amazing African music.

John Parry had exacting standards, but his tolerance was my good fortune. On one's own for the last news bulletin of the day, one's instincts for pronunciation of local place names did not always ring true, amusing the engineer but not always local farmers.

An era of those times has now passed into history with the death of John Parry.

Felicity Torliffe

Robert Gittings

THE charge that "deeper tones of imaginative experience" were beyond Robert Gittings' capacity as a poet (obituary, February 21) is less than fair.

A poet capable of the tender empathy shown by Gittings

in his exquisite "The Great Moth" deserves acknowledgement comparable to that accorded to Keats for his best-known Ode. I believe he would (and should) as soon be remembered for one wholly successful poem as for his studies of other men and their flowers.

Jon Wynne-Tyson

March 9 ON THIS DAY 1910

One of Lord Northcliffe's innovations after he purchased *The Times* in 1908 was to use its columns for self-advertisement. It is not known how successful such cloaking phrases as those voiced below were. Would they have persuaded today's tele-sales victim?

How alluring are the very words of this "Ashanti" is a name with magic in it. Some young man who will answer, or who has already answered, the above might always have been a home-stayer. Instead, he will within a few weeks be hearing savage tongues and extracting delicate work from black and only half-civilized hands. He will be wrestling with a ferocious climate and thrilling with the excitement of those from whom neither tropic sun nor insidious malaria can protect the pillaged gold reef. He will tread the soil which a generation ago was darkened by the blood of human sacrifice, and on the road of Wolsley's march to Kumasi he will see, face to face, idols that have been prophylaxed by men's sacrifices and defended at the price of a Throne — all this the outcome of a paragraph in the smallest print of *The Times*!

Thousands of miles in a totally opposite direction influences of a totally opposite character await other bold spirits. Each of the following announcements appeared in *The Times* last week:

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, farmer in Canada, SEEMS PARTNER to take up the soil which a generation ago was darkened by the blood of human sacrifice, and on the road of Wolsley's march to Kumasi he will see, face to face, idols that have been prophylaxed by men's sacrifices and defended at the price of a Throne — all this the outcome of a paragraph in the smallest print of *The Times*!

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Latest wills

Sir Herbert Leslie Joseph, of Newson, Portland, Mid Glamorgan, Vice-Chairman of Trust House Forte 1970-80, left estate valued at £2,749,157 net.

The Rev John David Bickelsteth, of Agmerhurst House, Ashburnham, East Sussex, founder of the Ashburnham Christian Trust, left estate valued at £1,285,303 net.

Alice Ellen Haigh, of Stoneygate, Leicester, left estate valued at £1,235,980 net.

Mr Cyril Bertram Mills, of London NW1, former chairman of Bertram Mills Circus, left estate valued at £741,044 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Ralph England, of St Albans, Hertfordshire — £524,496.

Mrs Elsie Margaret May, of Winchester, Hampshire — £964,413.

Nicola Sacco, of Ramsbottom, Greater Manchester — £550,871.

Mrs Violet May Turnbull, of Church Stretton, Shropshire — £752,266.

Lady Florence Alice Williams, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire — £561,798.

Mr Samuel Barnett, of Arley, Hertfordshire — £549,082.

Mrs Monna May Chaplin, of Platt, Kent — £788,141.

Mrs Audrey Anne Ford, of Northwood, Middlesex — £711,366.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Amerigo Vesputi, explorer, Florence, 1451; Honoré Mirabeau, statesman, Bignon, France, 1749; Joseph Franz Gall, anatomist, founder of phrenology, Tiefenbrunn, Austria, 1735; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Tamas Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1814; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole castle, Kent, 1892; David Smith, sculptor, Decatur, Indiana, 1906.

DEATHS: David Rizzo, favourite of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered, Edinburgh, 1566; Jules Mazarin, cardinal, statesman, Vincennes, France, 1661; Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I, German emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Munich, 1918.

More than 60 people were killed in storms over southern England, lasting until the 13th, 1891.

Architecture

Council caught in the tendering trap

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

FEW ministers care so much about the quality of public architecture as Michael Heseltine. Yet will he listen to the man who has done more than anyone to raise the standard of public sector design? The answer so far is a resounding "no".

True, the issue at stake, compulsory competitive tendering, is hardly the stuff of headlines. Tory ministers believe that the quality of architectural services will be improved by competition, and that county architects' departments like Hampshire's should have to tender for work against private practices.

Stanfield Smith, Hampshire's distinguished county architect, views Tory ministers with the anguish of a professor whose students have completely failed to do

the basic reading for their syllabus. "We are not against competition, but we're being asked to compete on everything. I am responsible for hundreds of schools and fire stations. I issue 85,000 orders a year. They vary between £1,000 and £5 million. Just to administer competitive tendering on each of these would mean doubling the size of my department."

The government, he says, has simply failed to understand what architects do. "People think you simply draw up a schedule of accommodation and give it to an architect. But our job is to analyse the need. There may be other ways of meeting it which do not involve capital outlay on new building."

Architects will simply end up building management mistakes, he says. "Take

schools. It's often the ones which are least used that demand more accommodation. "If you're based in the suburbs or a business park on a green field site, you might be able to solve all your architectural needs on a procurement basis. But local authorities are dealing all the time with difficult inner city sites and sensitive locations in historic towns and villages. All this requires a high degree of in-house expertise and first hand knowledge."

In architectural terms, Hampshire gets the benefits of competition by regularly giving commissions to national figures such as Ted Cullinan and Michael Hopkins, as well as to numerous local practices. There is no question of a monopoly. Elected members can and do compare the work of the

in-house team with outside practices.

Hampshire's members are proud of their record on cost as well as aesthetics. Councilors say they would be happy to provide trading accounts for the architects' work that the government would make subject to tendering. The National Audit Office could then draw up a league table of local authorities and compulsory tendering could be applied to those with the poorest results.

Will the secretary of state listen? Heseltine is not a bad-mannered man, rather the opposite. But when he came to deliver the oration marking the award of the Royal Gold Medal in Architecture to Stanfield Smith, he gave a party political speech, failing to mention the recipient. Hampshire Tories squirmed.

The Queen echoes her son's green concerns

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Queen has gone green. Taking up a cause proclaimed with such enthusiasm by her son, she issues a heartfelt plea today to the peoples of the earth to save the natural environment from destruction.

In a message to mark Commonwealth Day she calls on all the peoples of the 50 Commonwealth nations to remember that they share the world with many other living things. "The earth is a gift to us all, whoever we are, wherever we live," she says.

There was only one planet, and all life on it was interdependent. The peoples of the

50 nations were responsible for a third of the planet. "We all share the task of ensuring that our world will remain fit for life and capable of sustaining us and those who will come after us."

Her message, which will be read out during a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, is her strongest endorsement yet of green causes, and echoes the forceful speeches on the environment by the Prince of Wales.

She says that for too long the natural environment has been taken for granted. It was evident that people had to make sure they caused no further destruction, nor permanently degraded the natural resources on which they depended. "For example, unless we take action now to halt the rise in global temperatures, rising sea levels will threaten the very existence of several islands and low-lying Commonwealth countries," she says.

She calls on ordinary people to influence democratic governments to take action. Everyone could make a contribution, however large or small, to ensure the future health and vitality of the natural world. Bringing about the necessary changes would not be easy, particularly if it involved restraints and sacrifices. But it had to be done and everyone could help in one way or another. She appeals especially to the young people of the Commonwealth to make themselves aware of the critical issues.

Protecting the environment is now a universal goal, and will be the theme of a United Nations conference in Rio de Janeiro this summer. But it is not without controversy. Developing countries say they cannot afford the costs of environmental clean-ups and cannot forgo developments, such as the building of dams, that are often condemned by environmentalists. Poorer Commonwealth countries have accused the West of exploiting their natural resources without paying compensation for environmental destruction.

Ministers hint at tax cuts

Continued from page 1
cent reduction is not ruled out.

John MacGregor, the Commons leader, said yesterday: "We have got tax rates down because it is essential people should decide how they spend their own money."

He declined, however, to give an assurance that the Budget would be balanced by the previous target of 1994-95. "I would not give a precise timetable," he said.

Ministers continued to defend a rise in public borrowing. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said in an interview on *Walden* on London Weekend Television: "A low tax economy combined with financial prudence is what is required. It is essential to lighten the burden on corporate tax as well as personal taxation."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said: "We are in a recession, and in a recession social security payments go up. It is reasonable to use the fiscal system to stimulate the economy."

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Women's priorities
L&T section, page 1

Sober suits defy carnival spirit

FROM LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR
IN MILAN

THE opening of the international fashion collections at the weekend coincided with carnival week parades in Milan. Colourful clowns and tinsel Mardi Gras costumes in the streets; however, served only to show up more sharply the sober mood inside the Italian fashion houses, as the top names in the industry struggle through the worldwide retailing recession.

Many designers have shifted their attention to lower-priced secondary lines, competing for volume sales in a wider fashion market. Valentino with his Oliver label, Gianni Versace with Versus and Istante, Gianfranco Ferré with Oasi.

Giorgio Armani, whose lower-priced Emporio label with its distinctive eagle crest, is recognised on every high street, consolidated his position as leader of the Milan design pack by kicking off the programme of shows with discreet ankle-length camel coats and chalk-striped flannel trouser suits for day, and feminine variations on the simple black-tie-and-tuxedo look for night. For the first time, he gave equal billing to clothes bearing the Emporio eagle and his top-priced label in the one show.

Like every other designer, Armani has lengthened his skirts. The best, at Emporio, are skinny with a slit on one side from mid-calf to thigh. They are worn with a long, lean jacket in black-and-white dogtooth checks.

Even Dolce & Gabbana, whose signature style is an overtly sexy lingerie look, managed to combine their strapless bra tops with Sicilian gangster pinstripe trouser suits, with a classic camel-hair coat over the top.



Armani equal billing for his cheaper line



Alla Milanese: Dolce & Gabbana's Hawaii print scarf twisted and knotted into a short dress worn with flower garlands; the same designers' Berlin cabaret number, black trousers and braces

Savage battle unfolds in hills

Continued from page 1

laughter. "Don't run away, brothers," one of them shouted. "Come and live with us on the mountain."

Behind this row of hills, a tank unit from the Commonwealth of Independent States stationed at Shell was drawn up; its guns pointing towards Azerbaijan.

The captain of the force refused to say why they were there, but he emphasised that they were completely neutral.

The Azerbaijan objective is to push up into the Armenian-controlled mountains, up the road from Agdam to Askeran, Khodjaly and Stepanakert, the capital of the Armenian populated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, and win the war. However, so far they have lost Khodjaly, and on Friday, an Azerbaijani

attack to retake Askeran was beaten back.

I spoke to an Azerbaijani soldier, Samid Khudaverdiyev, who was wounded in the fighting in Askeran on Friday afternoon. Two other men from that battle were also in hospital.

An official of the Popular Front, the opposition that forced the resignation of President Mubarek of Azerbaijan on Friday, said that in all 15 Azerbaijanis were killed and a similar number wounded in the battle for Askeran.

One of them, he said, was blown up while trying to clear a path through a minefield for the Azerbaijani forces.

At a press conference at the weekend in Agdam, a local Popular Front military leader, Rustam Gajiev, claimed that an Azerbaijani "counter-

attack" had driven the Armenians from Askeran, Nakhichevan, and Khanabad, which are now in no man's land. However, the Azerbaijani soldiers on our hilltop post said that these places were still under Armenian control, and that the Azerbaijanis were hurling rockets blindly into the battle which would, certainly, not have been the case if they had known that there were no troops there.

According to Mr Gajiev, the Armenians have informed Azerbaijan that they still hold more than 500 hostages. About 700 men have been handed back to Azerbaijan.

In the hospital at Agdam, where many of them have been admitted for frostbite, a Mrs Guliyeva Orjueva claimed

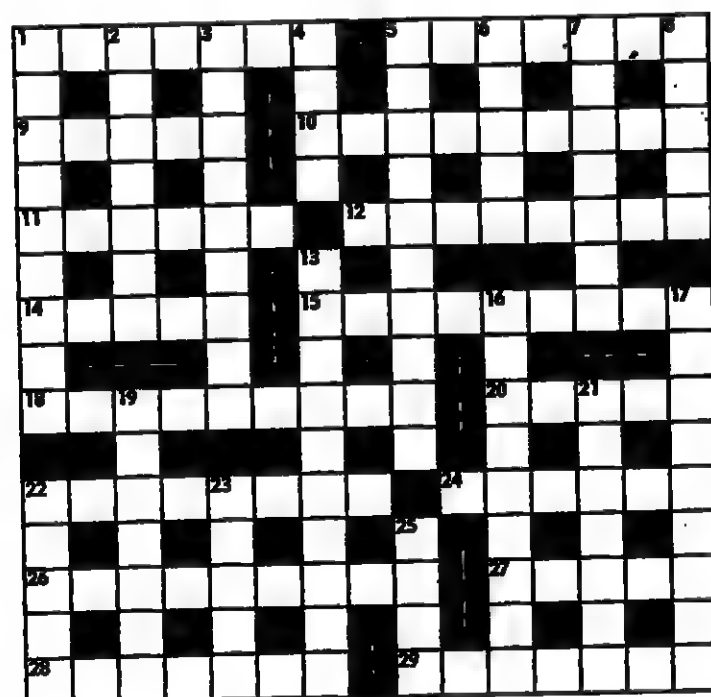
that while she was a prisoner she saw two young Azerbaijani men being shot in coldblood. She also claimed that other prisoners had been beaten and robbed, and that one young woman was raped.

Accounts like these are fueling the anger of the Azerbaijanis, who are now preparing for a long and cruel war. Casualties in Friday's fighting may have been low, but outside the mosque in Agdam, there were more than 200 makeshift wooden coffins ready and waiting.

Last night Armenian nationalists accused Turkey of seeking to exploit the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh in order to spread its influence through Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union.

Mediation efforts, page 10

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,861



ACROSS

- 1 Like a little doctor's treatment in Ireland (7).
- 5 Foreign money is the making of him (7).
- 9 Taken out, being rather old (5).
- 10 Damage with a coin maybe, or a small instrument (9).
- 11 A team's remarks not generally overheard (6).
- 12 27 appearing in film that is improperly distributed (8).
- 14 Iron in cupboard (5).
- 15 Stars with capital going to American lawyer (9).
- 18 Servicemen calling for some relaxation (9).
- 20 After a row walk the dog (5).
- 22 A river and country rat (8).
- 24 She's far from bright — backing neither alternative (6).
- 26 The head will get personal support in a lawsuit (5-4).

DOWN

- 1 Incorrectly parked in outside carpark — it's criminal! (9).
- 2 "Room at the Top" occupying the French screen (7).
- 3 Directs a dunderhead over clothes (9).
- 4 A nymph's sound reflection (4).
- 5 Lots may be so hostile (10).
- 6 Spoken — spoken as permitted (5).
- 7 Hand without trumps makes trick (7).
- 8 Begin to jump (5).
- 13 Public officer coping with a trying job (10).
- 16 Chipping, for example, a great painting (3,6).
- 17 Putting a point about Navy ratings' decoration (9).
- 19 Low — right time for a tie-up (7).
- 21 Tore up class report (7).
- 22 Limits a large number just a little (5).
- 23 Pick-me-up for heavyweight in charge (5).
- 25 Watch money gradually leak away (4).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,861 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard
SHAKESPEARIANS

- JOHN RATES**
a. A checky servant
b. An ancient soldier
c. A drinking companion of Pelastus
- HOLOFERNES**
a. A pedantic schoolmaster
b. A second messenger
c. A monstrous servant
- NERISSA**
a. A shepherdess
b. A woodland nymph
c. A maid and confidante
- MICHAEL CASSIO**
a. A conspirator
b. A seaman
c. A general's lieutenant

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Most places will have a dry, bright day. Western coastal areas might see a little rain and more persistent rain will spread into north Wales and northern England during the evening. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will start dry, but rain, heavy in the west, will spread east, reaching all parts by the afternoon. It will become generally more windy, with gales in parts of the north. Outlook: continuing unsettled with rain in most places.

MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=snow; 5=rain; 6=cloud; 7=rain; 8=rain; 9=rain; 10=rain; 11=rain; 12=rain; 13=rain; 14=rain; 15=rain; 16=rain; 17=rain; 18=rain; 19=rain; 20=rain; 21=rain; 22=rain; 23=rain; 24=rain; 25=rain; 26=rain; 27=rain; 28=rain; 29=rain; 30=rain; 31=rain; 32=rain; 33=rain; 34=rain; 35=rain; 36=rain; 37=rain; 38=rain; 39=rain; 40=rain; 41=rain; 42=rain; 43=rain; 44=rain; 45=rain; 46=rain; 47=rain; 48=rain; 49=rain; 50=rain; 51=rain; 52=rain; 53=rain; 54=rain; 55=rain; 56=rain; 57=rain; 58=rain; 59=rain; 60=rain; 61=rain; 62=rain; 63=rain; 64=rain; 65=rain; 66=rain; 67=rain; 68=rain; 69=rain; 70=rain; 71=rain; 72=rain; 73=rain; 74=rain; 75=rain; 76=rain; 77=rain; 78=rain; 79=rain; 80=rain; 81=rain; 82=rain; 83=rain; 84=rain; 85=rain; 86=rain; 87=rain; 88=rain; 89=rain; 90=rain; 91=rain; 92=rain; 93=rain; 94=rain; 95=rain; 96=rain; 97=rain; 98=rain; 99=rain; 100=rain; 101=rain; 102=rain; 103=rain; 104=rain; 105=rain; 106=rain; 107=rain; 108=rain; 109=rain; 110=rain; 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MONDAY MARCH 9 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MAN OF THE WEEK

Saatchi axeman keeps his head

Norman Lamont and Saatchi & Saatchi have two things in common. Both are working flat out to secure a fourth term of Conservative government and both have big diary dates tomorrow.

A few hours before Mr Lamont unveils his Budget proposals, Saatchi & Saatchi — once again advertising agency to the Tory party — will report annual results. Mr Lamont will live or die with his Budget. Robert Louis-Dreyfus, Saatchi's chief executive, may be treated more gently.

At first sight it will be difficult to see why Saatchi's results are expected to be look dreadful, with an operating deficit magnified by exceptional items into a pre-tax loss that could run to tens of millions of pounds. Time surely for this laid-back, wealthy Frenchman to fall on his sword, or for a pretender to cut off his head?

Neither is likely. Saatchi, you see, is making progress. In the two years since M. Louis-Dreyfus was installed, he has rid the group of its crippling expensive American consultants and avoided the bankruptcy that looked inevitable.

But having demonstrated his skills as corporate pragmatist and



Louis-Dreyfus: flair

well connected diplomat, it is time for him to show some of the flair that helped turn IMS International, a pharmaceutical research group, from a \$100 million company in 1983, the year after he joined, to one worth \$1.7 billion in 1988 when, as chief executive, he negotiated its sale to Dun & Bradstreet. But that was the Eighties.

At Saatchi in the Nineties, he has begun the process by taking an axe to the cost base, and shown himself ready to take on the huge egos and matching salaries of advertising and win. Cutting jobs in a recession is easy. The skill will be not to strip the group of all its creative talent just as the recovery arrives. But blood there must be. In a year's time Louis-Dreyfus may have earned a little gratitude from shareholders but not much in the way of thanks from his staff.

MATTHEW BOND

'Jant tomorrow', page 18

Hopes of lower interest rates recede

Lamont to opt for tax cuts and caution

BY COLIN MACKROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, intends to cut income tax in tomorrow's Budget, but will give the economy only a cautious fiscal boost for fear of upsetting the financial markets in the run-up to the general election.

City economists' confidence that the government would deliver a base rate cut to accompany the Budget has waned as the pound weakened in the exchange-rate mechanism. With little scope in the Budget to boost sterling enough to justify fresh monetary easing, Mr Lamont will be further constrained if the prime minister announces the election this week. The convention is to leave interest rates unchanged during election campaigns.

In response to intense spec-

ulation that the Budget would open the way for a half-point cut in the base rate to 10 per cent, the Treasury yesterday underlined the narrow gap, of 0.75 of a percentage point, between German and British interest rates. Given Bundesbank concern about inflation, there is little hope before the second half of this year that Germany will widen the differential by lowering its interest rate guard. By reducing interest rates prematurely, Mr Lamont could risk the political embarrassment of having to raise them again before the election.

After Opposition charges that the government is "brining" the electorate with borrowed money, Mr Lamont is expected to unveil a fiscal package of about £3 billion that will boost the public sector borrowing requirement to

about £24 billion in fiscal 1992-3. Although double this year's PSBR, and well above the £20 billion implied in November's autumn statement, it would appear prudent relative to the wider borrowing some economists have predicted.

It is possible, though, that Mr Lamont may produce a lower figure through attractive national savings products and an improved "Tessie" scheme. To reduce the impact of Budget giveaways on government finances, Mr Lamont is expected to uprate duties on drink and tobacco at least in line with inflation and introduce new savings instruments. Last week, the government announced plans for a national lottery.

A lowered forecast for economic growth in 1992 — almost halving the 2.25 per cent the Treasury predicted last year — would also help convince the markets that the Chancellor is giving the economy an appropriate boost, instead of a panic kick-start.

The expected 1p reduction in the standard rate of income tax to 24p also looks moderate compared with the speculation of a big push towards the Conservative goal of 20p. Other tax measures are likely to include a substantial increase, possibly twice the inflation rate, in personal tax allowances that would enable hundreds of thousands of voters to stop paying income tax. Combined with the cut in the basic rate, the measures will underline the Conservative commitment to reducing income tax.

Help for companies is likely in the form of temporary measures, such as tax holidays for capital investment, to bring forward spending plans. Relief for the small business sector could come in measures to ease the burden of the uniform business rate and raise the VAT threshold. The Chancellor will also reaffirm the government's commitment to the ERM and indicate the likely timing of sterling's shift to the narrow fluctuation bands.

Budget prospects, page 1

Outlook worsens for car industry

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CARMAKERS are rapidly revising their sales estimates downwards as evidence grows that even measures to kickstart the economy in tomorrow's Budget may fail to give the ailing industry a significant boost.

Projections based on registrations in the first two months of this year suggest sales as low as 1.5 million, well below the 1.6 million of 1991, itself a substantial drop on the 2 million and 2.3 million of the two preceding years.

Even with the prospect of an improving economy, Vauxhall believes that total 1992 registrations may only

stagger to 1.67 million. Volkswagen is even gloomier, expecting only a repeat of last year's number. Hopes are high that the Budget will encourage new buyers to enter Britain's 13,000 showrooms by cutting the special 10 per cent car tax.

However, Peter Bachelier, Vauxhall's sales and marketing director, said yesterday that even abolition of the special tax would bring only 140,000 new sales in a full year to an industry where registrations were running last month almost 35 per cent below February 1991. The Budget is proving a double-edged sword, with buyers delaying their purchases in anticipation of price cuts.

However, any reduction in car tax will probably not come into force until April, which is close to the industry's traditional quiet time. That could delay any substantial rise in registrations until August, the peak month of the year, meaning manufacturers effectively lose eight months of sales.

Mr Bachelier said: "People are holding off and the question will be after the Budget whether they choose to wait longer for the confidence to come back to the economy and then whether they wait for new registrations in August."

ANC aims to woo foreign investment

THE African National Congress is set to unveil an investment code guaranteeing rights for foreign investors, its most positive step so far towards reassuring investors about the future of South Africa (Jon Ashworth writes).

Max Sisulu, the ANC's director of economic affairs, told *The Times* that foreign investors will be allowed to repatriate some of their profits — the first time such a guarantee has been made in writing — and that a stable and growing economy was needed to attract investment.

Two warnings, page 9
Foreign capital, page 19

Five newcomers are shortlisted for award

FIVE firms have been shortlisted in the new category of the Coopers Deloitte PLC Awards for 1991, which are held in association with *The Times* (Martin Barrow writes).

They are Eurocamp, the camping holiday operator; Frost Group, the petrol retailer; Harrington Kilbride, a specialist publisher; Clarke Foods, Britain's second-largest ice-cream maker; and Airbreak Leisure, the tour operator.

This is a new category for companies that went public in 1991, a last-minute year for new issues. Judges were looking for candidates that had

COOPERS
DELOITTE
PLC
AWARDS
1991

already demonstrated strong growth and management qualities. The winner will be announced at the Coopers Deloitte PLC Awards dinner on March 19 at the Grosvenor House hotel, London.

Trend-setters, page 20

Lacoste crocodile snaps at the pirates

FROM SEAN MCCARTHAIGH IN PARIS



Olazabal: the real thing.

EVERY summer, thousands of holidaymakers come home sporting not just a sun tan, but a tiny, green crocodile on their left breast. "Nice tan, nice Lacoste shirt" say their friends and colleagues. The tan may be real, but the Lacoste is often a fake.

The all-important trademark first appeared on the blazer of René Lacoste, the tennis hero, in 1927. He helped France to win the Davis Cup and became known in the American press as "The Crocodile" when he won a crocodile-skin suitcase in a bet on a match.

More than 10 million people buy his shirts every year, and the company has widened its range of goods, producing tennis rackets, a range of sports clothes, such as worn by José-Maria Olazabal, kit bags and its own eau de toilette. All are priced for the luxury market; the ubiquitous crocodile costs.

In 1990, *Le Monde* newspaper claimed that fraudulent use of French fashion labels was costing the country Fr5 billion a year and 20,000 jobs. This year, the special section *juridique* of Lacoste will spend about Fr15 million in the battle against the pirates.

Lionel Rondouin, a spokesman for the mark said: "We're gearing ourselves up for another summer." The worst countries for the fabrication of fake crocodiles, he predicted, would be Thailand, Turkey, Morocco and Italy.

The thrust of Lacoste's anti-counterfeit strategy does not rely on staff members posing as tourists in far-flung regions, pouncing on street-sellers. Instead, the company spends its money on trying to persuade the authorities in offending areas to clamp down hard on the forgers.

Lacoste has also secured the help of French ministers, who will, on occasion, quietly raise the issue with their opposite numbers when on official visits. False crocodiles abound, but the company is understandably coy when it comes to such details. The Paris anti-counterfeit team is not predicting total success this year, or next; it admits it is a slow battle.

But Lacoste takes succour from its own propaganda. Never mind the green reptile, feel the quality: the fake stitching falls apart, but the original lasts forever.



Dropping in at the Waldorf Astoria, Mike Weaver inspects the front of London's Waldorf hotel in Aldwych as part of a \$12.5 million refurbishment by

Forté, the international hotel group. The refurbishment will take up to a year. The Waldorf, acquired by Lord Forté in 1958, was the first hotel in his portfolio,

which now numbers 800 hotels worldwide. Forté will upgrade the 296 bedrooms, install air conditioning, double glazing, new lifts and clean the facade.

EC looks at subsidy trade-off to rescue Gatt

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community aerospace executives and Martin Bangemann, the European commissioner for industry, have discussed a seemingly far-fetched plan that could ease tensions between the Community and America through a trade-off involving aerospace and agricultural subsidies.

Officials from AECMA, the industry grouping of nine of the Community's largest aerospace concerns, have suggested that if Germany can be persuaded to back the call by Arthur Dunkel, the secretary general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, for 36 per cent subsidy cuts in the common agricultural policy, then the American authorities might drop their complaint over Airbus subsidies, which is lodged with a special Gatt committee.

The trade-off has been dismissed by foreign office officials from France and Germany, but those at the meeting in Poitiers, southwest France, have confirmed that the aerospace executives did talk about agricultural subsidies. The plan could embarrass France, which is hoping that the Bonn-Paris axis can remain firm in the face of Mr Dunkel's call for the subsidy cuts.

Within Germany, however, the FDP, the Free Democratic Party, is pushing for a Gatt deal and there have been signs that Bonn is prepared to negotiate agricultural subsidy cuts at Gatt.

Sources close to Rolls-Royce, the aerospace concern, confirmed that the aeronautics-agriculture trade-off in Gatt had been discussed.

Although the meeting was highly secretive, minutes of the discussions are now circulating among aircraft industry executives and these confirm that the commission believes it can play a strong role.

Siemens chooses UK for new arm

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

SIEMENS has chosen Britain as the headquarters of its Air Traffic Management systems business, the first time the electronics giant has placed a core business division outside Germany.

The decision marks an attempt to increase Siemens' activities in Britain, where the company hit the headlines in 1989 when it launched its hostile takeover bid with GEC for Plessey. It is also a move to capitalise on Plessey's experience in radar.

Siemens ATM is among the world's top four companies in this industry, which provides civil aviation authorities with radar-based air traffic detection equipment. In some cases, ATM companies also build airports.

Siemens' defence-related activities are believed to have suffered heavily from the fall in defence expenditure. The establishment of an ATM company within this division forms part of a "banks-to-

tractors" conversion strategy. Siemens ATM has a turnover of about £100 million and employs 1,000 staff, mostly in Chessington, Surrey. It also has operations in Germany and America.

The total world market for ATM equipment is estimated to be worth \$2 billion, growing at a rate of 15 per cent annually. The other big operators in this market are IBM and Raytheon of America and Thomson of France.

Clive Dolan, managing director of the ATM division, said the investment plans envisage annual growth of 30 per cent and that the aim was to generate turnover of several hundred million pounds by the end of the decade.

The decision to form a separate division with headquarters in Britain was taken as long as 12 months ago, but was not activated until the company recently bought Cardion, an American ATM company.

R-R in talks on state research aid

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ROLLS-Royce, the aero-engineering group, confirmed it was in talks with the government that could eventually lead to a degree of state funding for research and development work.

A spokesman said: "There has been no specific request for aid." The talks are part of a drive by the engineering and aerospace industries to explore the possibility of government investment, launch funds and European Community funding.

On Friday, Sir Ralph Robins, Rolls-Royce's chief executive, told the Aviation Club: "Some of our foreign friends are extremely expert at providing indirect support."

Last year, Rolls-Royce cut 7,000 jobs and on Thursday the group announced a slump in pre-tax profits from £176 million to £51 million for 1991. A further 3,000 jobs are to go this year.

Leading article, page 13

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7155 (-0.0425)
German mark
2.8700 (-0.0078)
Exchange index
89.9 (-0.8)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1988.6 (-14.4)
FT-SE 100
2533.1 (-29.0)
New York Dow Jones
3221.60 (-46.07)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
20892.99 (-345.82)

Saatchi poised for 'jam tomorrow' payment scheme

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A RADICAL scheme for remuneration of top Saatchi & Saatchi employees will be considered by the group's directors today. High earners at Saatchi will see their basic salaries fall but are being promised jam tomorrow in the form of a three-year deferred bonus scheme linked to profitability as a sweetener.

The three-year deferred bonus scheme, which is expected to take the form of cash payments but may include an element of options, is only for Saatchi top earners internationally.

The group has not yet given details of how it will differ

from the controversial and much criticised Burton Group deferred bonus plan. The scheme is expected to have the effect of tying the most productive high earners into the Saatchi group. Those who beat their budget targets will do "exceedingly well" under the new scheme that will be tied to local profitability.

News of the scheme comes before the group's results, which are due tomorrow. A £50 million loss is expected by some analysts, as high one-off costs for redundancies and property take their toll.

The deferred bonus may

replace the present share option scheme, which has not been a success. Saatchi's shares have fallen to 164p. The current annual bonus paid to top staff is expected to remain.

The element of fixed pay in top executive's salaries will fall. Some are already experiencing a pay freeze and that will be extended where possible to other high paid employees. Saatchi says there will be no mass breaching of existing contracts and the new arrangements will be introduced gradually.

Salaries at Saatchi have long been considered top heavy with senior employees on above market rates and junior employees on below market rates. About 300 employees earned more than £150,000 each last year and 30 earned more than the £312,000 paid to Maurice and Charles Saatchi, who both waived the right to half their salary.

Salaries currently represent 60 per cent of Saatchi's fixed cost bill and Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, wants to reduce this by 10 percentage points.

A spokesman for the group said: "The board will tomorrow be considering long-term pay incentives designed to increase the percentage of variable pay and reduce the fixed element. There is no truth in the suggestion that there will be a mass reduction in senior salaries."

The earnings of the Saatchi brothers, Charles and Maurice, do not come under the new scheme. Their salaries are reviewed by the compensation committee that sets directors' salaries and also meets today. No decision has been taken on the level of directors' salaries, but a pay cut for the brothers is not inevitable.

Saatchi is braced for a degree of dissatisfaction from top employees. The chief executives of some of the businesses have already been informed and they are expected to sell the concept to their staff.

Firms' cars overtaken by recession



ROLLS-Royces, Porsches, Ferraris and Aston Martins are rolling into the Buckinghamshire headquarters of Storacar as companies go into liquidation and directors' runabouts are seized by the

insolvency accountants. Allan Cowen (above), managing director of Storacar, says 15 per cent of the group's turnover now comes from recession-hit businesses. Finance houses are repossessing

cars when payment schedules are not met and clearing banks are sending in cars over which they have a charge. The cars are stored until they can be sent to specialist vehicle auctions.

Four LUI firms ready for liquidation

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FOUR subsidiaries of London United Investments, the collapsed insurance group that is being investigated by the trade and industry department, have been placed in provisional liquidation, to help them settle tens of thousands of insurance claims.

The High Court appointed Chris Hughes and Ian Bond from Cork Gully as provisional liquidators to Kingscroft Insurance, El Paso Insurance, Lime Street Insurance and Mutual Reinsurance, known together as KELM.

Their job is to try to implement a scheme of arrangement for the companies so they can pay out a proportion of the many claims they face. If that fails, Cork Gully will ask the court to place KELM in liquidation. The liquidators will report back to the creditors by July.

Mr Hughes said that the four companies had assets and potential reinsurance recoveries of up to \$1.25 billion but face claims estimated at \$2.4 billion. Some of these will not emerge for up to 20 years because the companies specialised in so-called long-tail liability insurance in America.

If the KELM companies go into liquidation, their creditors are likely to wait many years for a settlement because Cork Gully will be forced to retain most of the assets to meet any future claims. A scheme of arrangement would allow creditors to recover their money more quickly.

The shortfall at the KELM companies is being met by funds from the Policyholders Protection Board, which raises funds through a levy on British insurance companies.

Phoenix to launch £75m capital fund

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Phoenix Partnership is planning to launch a development capital fund worth up to £75 million as part of a diversification from its traditional corporate finance business. The Mitsubishi Corporation, one of Japan's largest companies, is expected to take a one-third stake in the fund as part of its growing links with Phoenix.

Phoenix Fund Managers, a new subsidiary of the partnership, is marketing the fund to international investors. The operation is being led by David Gregson, the former director of Globe Investment Trust, who was recruited last year. A successful completion of the first closing of the fund would mark another coup for Phoenix, given the low level of activity in the development capital market at present.

Phoenix hopes to raise up to £40 million in the first closing. Phoenix believes diversifying into development capital will complement its traditional corporate finance business, which will offer advisory services to the companies in

which the fund invests. The firm's corporate finance and asset management businesses will be monitored by independent investors in the fund.

The fund has been given a head start with the support of MCF Financial Services, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi, which has agreed to invest up to £25 million. Mitsubishi has targeted financial services as a growth area and, in 1990, took a 20 per cent stake in the Phoenix Partnership after the firm was bought from Morgan Grenfell.

Phoenix was founded in 1981 and rose to prominence for its work on some of the City's large mergers, including the sale of Wedd Durlacher, the stockbroker, to Barclays Bank. Most recently, it helped to arrange the sale of Hoare Govett to ABN-Amro.

Phoenix has shown its intention to extend its corporate finance activities into the insurance industry by recruiting Michael Butt, the former chairman of Eagle Star, as a director of Phoenix Securities.

BT bonus report denied

BRITISH Telecom has denied that Iain Vallance, its chairman, would earn a performance-related bonus from savings the company will make from its estimated 25,000 redundancies.

A report in Saturday's *Daily Mirror* said the redundancies would save BT £500 million and would earn Mr Vallance, who the company said earned £450,000, a performance-related bonus of £150,000.

A company spokesman described the claim as "poppycock". He confirmed that, under the terms of Mr Vallance's contract, the company chairman was entitled to a performance-related bonus of up to half his salary. However, he said the redundancies would take place in the next financial year and could not be linked to this year's bonus.

DTI stonewalls on being misled over Blue Arrow

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE trade and industry department fended off enquiries into a press report at the weekend that it plans to look into allegations that government investigators into the Blue Arrow affair were misled over the role of Tom Frost, chief executive of National Westminster Bank.

Mr Frost's City nickname "Teflon Tom" was mentioned during the year-long Blue Arrow trial at which he was a defence witness. The case ended this year with convictions against three former directors of County NatWest, the bank's merchant banking arm, for offences of fraud in connection with covering up the failure of the £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue.

The Bank of England denied allegations in *The Economist* that it had conspired with NatWest to prevent the DTI launching an official enquiry into the part played by the clearing bank in the failed rights issue. NatWest refused to comment on allegations concerning Mr Frost's conduct in the period before and during the DTI enquiry.

A DTI spokesman said that the department was unable to comment on the latest allegations, as the matter was sub judice since a second Blue Arrow trial is still possible. It was a DTI report from Michael Crystal and David Spence, the official inspectors, made public in July

1989, that led to the court cases being opened. A further DTI report has been completed, but its publication date has not yet been decided.

Although the denials would appear to rule out any early action by the government, DTI officials are understood to be concerned about the discrepancies between evidence made available to the inspectors and information that in part emerged during the Blue Arrow trial. While

the DTI report did not criticise Mr Frost, *The Economist* last week wrote that documents signed or hand-written by Mr Frost and relating to the attempt to rescue the rights issue were not made available to the inspectors.

Government officials are unhappy over the parts played by the Bank of England and NatWest, as they fear that they could undermine public confidence in the City's ability to police itself.



Witness for the defence: Tom Frost of NatWest

Steetley battle heats up

By OUR CITY STAFF

DIRECTORS of Steetley, the building materials group, are expected to make a statement today urging shareholders to continue to reject the £620 million bid from Redland.

Steetley is denying that it withheld information from shareholders on the value of its French assets. Redland alleges that the group should have informed shareholders at an earlier date that it would be writing off £40 million following the revaluation of its French mineral reserves. Redland is expected to take the matter to the takeover panel.

"Steetley behaved properly," said a spokesman for the group. "It informed shareholders when the information became available to it."

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London leads in M&A, says survey

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE leading British and American investment banks employ 3,500 people on mergers and acquisitions work in Europe, with 65 per cent of them located in London, according to a survey published today by *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist magazine.

Philip Healey, the magazine's publisher, said that the survey, which he claims is the first of its kind, was designed to establish a research base in order to gauge which investment houses have the largest commitment to the M&A market, to measure future growth, plot expansion into mainland Europe and judge

profitability in terms of deals per head. The 21 banks included in the survey employ 2,100 professionally qualified M&A executives, of which 1,500 are London-based. There were 610 staff employed at director level, of which roughly two thirds are located in London. The average number of European deals per director concluded in 1991 was 1.24.

Mr Healey said: "Our follow-up survey in 12 months' time will enable us to measure the degree by which M&A has expanded or contracted and whether or not the emphasis has shifted from London to mainland Europe."

The call for government policy on R&D was made at a private dinner where Mr Lilley met five industrialists, including two senior managers from British Telecom and GPT, the telecommunications equipment maker, in a discussion that focused on the future of research and development policy.

Mr Lilley is understood to have suggested that investors frequently do not understand the positive impact of R&D spending on the long-term growth of a company, and that part of the solution was to solve this problem. This view, however, was not shared by his guests.

who agreed that investors knew what they were doing. They said the country was lacking a policy to encourage R&D spending.

The need for more R&D spending was highlighted last month in a report by the Working Group On Innovation, which was set up by the Prince of Wales. A report on the impact of R&D spending was published last year by the Confederation of British Industry and Sciteb, a management consultancy. This report concluded a company's growth in the long term was linked to its R&D spending.

Some of the industrialists favoured a tax break to encourage R&D spending, while others proposed placing greater emphasis on helping universities build up R&D institutes, which would work closely with industry. This appears to be in line with the

N Sea oil output 'to rise 40% by 1995'

By MARTIN BARROW

NORTH Sea oil production will rise 40 per cent over the next three years, reaching a peak of 2.7 million barrels per day in 1995, according to a report by Arthur Andersen Petroleum Services, published today.

The report also forecasts gas production, which reached record levels in 1991, will rise until 1998 and peak at 8.9 billion cubic feet per day, 70 per cent above the 1991 average.

Over the next three years, gas will account for 31 per cent of total UK production. From 1995, this proportion will increase, making up 40 per cent of UK output by the

end of the decade. The report estimates that capital expenditure on field developments will total almost £18 billion over the next three years. State revenues, including royalties, petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax, are expected to be about £10 billion.

Eleven new offshore oil and gas fields will begin production in 1992, compared with only three in 1991. Ten field developments are likely to receive approval, against nine last year, with a further 17 possible candidates. Remaining UK reserves at the end of 1991 were 12.3 billion barrels of oil and 53 trillion cubic feet of gas.

While Mr Lilley appears not to be in favour of copying the German model, he announced last month a £2 million pilot scheme in co-operation with the education and science department, to help bridge the gap.

Britain spends more on R&D than any other country in Europe, except Germany. R&D spending is especially high in some of Britain's best performing sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food, drink and tobacco.

Lilley urged to encourage R&D

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has been told by a group of industrialists that the government should consider a more active policy on research and development to prevent British companies losing out in the single European market.

The call for government policy on R&D was made at a private dinner where Mr Lilley met five industrialists, including two senior managers from British Telecom and GPT, the telecommunications equipment maker, in a discussion that focused on the future of research and development policy.

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recommendations of the Working Group On Innovation report, which called for technology centres to be established, aimed at bridging the gap between university research and industry's R&D requirements. Such centers would be modelled on Germany's Fraunhofer institutes, which specialise in product and technology development.

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Britain spends more on R&D than any other country in Europe, except Germany. R&D spending is especially high in some of Britain's best performing sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food, drink and tobacco.

Markets keep waiting in hope

The stock market is waiting for tomorrow's Budget, for the election expected in a month's time and, having taken several rain checks already, for definite evidence of an economic recovery at some indefinite time this year. Not surprisingly, share prices have been marking time. For the last eight weeks, the FT-SE index has been trading, with unaccustomed sobriety, within a 2.4 per cent range between 2,510 and 2,570.

In domestic markets, the Budget will be judged almost entirely on its possible effect on the election. The City may not fear Labour greatly, but much prefers the Conservatives. Even in the foreign exchange markets, Labour is still seen as more likely to devalue sterling within the ERM. How far the stock market responds to the result of the election depends as much on the market-makers as on any reaction from investors. The index dropped about 300 points during the autumn, when Labour was gaining in the opinion polls and the government had to abandon any idea of a November election. Much of that, however, was due to disappointment that the predicted upturn from recession, which had helped boost the index 600 points earlier in the year, failed to materialise.

Politically sensitive utility stocks, now significant in the market, had a terrible time in the autumn, but many have since recovered relative to the index and would doubtless suffer an emotional drop on a Labour victory, even though the net impact on regulation is unclear. The election result may still not move the FT-SE index more than 200 points in either direction unless the result is peculiarly messy, for neither the Budget nor the choice of government is likely to change economic fundamentals. A study this weekend by James Capel notes that a Labour victory, against City expectations, would knock markets immediately, that it would reduce the generally predicted rise in share prices over the next year and that Labour economic policies might lead the economy on a different path in the medium term. Notably, however, James Capel would not significantly alter its earnings per share forecasts.

Even if massive election bribes have been ruled out, the Budget will increase the public sector borrowing to the sort of level the City feared Labour might bring, but which has been made temporarily respectable, in modest post-ERM thinking, by the German deficit. Norman Lamont will also have stocked up gifts to please most constituencies, including business directly as well as the voters. Fiscal policy should eventually boost the economy by at least 1 per cent, but not soon enough to change economic forecasts much. The Chancellor's dearest aim will be to boost confidence. Ending election uncertainty should also help there, provided there is some stable government.

Confidence is significant, especially in the decisions of institutional investors with money still to spend. Investors must hope it is crucial, for the stock market may not have much else going for it. Recovery is likely to be slow. UBS Phillips & Drew expects a rise of 8 per cent in industrial profits reported for 1992 and 11 per cent for 1993, though financials would raise the overall 1992 gain to 16 per cent. On that basis shares sell at an average 13.7 times next year's expected earnings. That looks slightly more attractive on international comparisons. Dividends, however, are likely to grow slowly for several years, not least because of the impact of the ERM. Dividend cover is as low as in the recession ten years ago, without the potential for profit growth that unleashed. By contrast, the risk premium in dividend yields over index-linked gilts is only half a point, against 3½ points then. Recovery then yielded a stock market boom even greater than the long economic boom. On both counts, prospects look less exciting when recovery comes this time.

ANC casts tentative 'yes' vote for foreign capital in new South Africa

As part of its overall economic strategy, the ANC is drawing up a blueprint for foreign investment, writes Jon Ashworth

A white South African prepares to go to the polls a week tomorrow to decide the republic's future, the African National Congress is finalising an investment code that will guarantee rights for foreign investors.

The code is only a straw in the wind, but an important one. What role the ANC will play in the future governance of South Africa is unclear. The future position of foreign investors is merely a part of a whole new economic framework for the country that will have to be thrashed out as the nation's blacks are progressively given a voice in the running of the country. The framework is no more certain than the shape, political complexion and composition of future administrations. But the ANC is at last giving signals about its intentions towards foreign capital, which will be needed amply if the political and economic aspirations of the black communities are to be fulfilled.

In an interview with *The Times*, Max Sisulu, the ANC's director of economic affairs, said foreign investors would be allowed to repatriate some of their profits in return for creating jobs and bringing skills and resources into the region.

Mr Sisulu said: "We think it's important to talk to potential foreign investors, to give them our perspective, to express any concerns that we have and also to appeal to them to contribute to our economic growth. We are prepared to sit down with foreign investors and even make certain guarantees about repatriation of part of the profits."

Mr Sisulu said investors would be looking for an attractive political and economic environment and a predictable economic policy. To encourage them, an ANC government would allow profits to be repatriated, in contrast to neighbours like Zimbabwe, but expected something in return. "We will want some of the profits to remain and flood into the country, and we also want foreign investors to concentrate on certain areas. We want them to come in where it is going to be productive, create work and create jobs."

The ANC economic team has drawn up its investment code with the assistance of the United Nations department of economic and social development. The document has to be fine-tuned, but spells out certain rights for foreign investors.

This is what the City, as well as other leading financial centres that see great opportunity in the development of southern Africa, have been



Nationalisation would alienate foreign investors: Nelson Mandela, the ANC president

waiting for. There is tremendous interest in South Africa, but no one is going to invest without guarantees. On March 17, white South Africans will be asked to vote on President FW de Klerk's reforms. A vote of no confidence would have terrible implications. But a "yes" vote would strengthen Mr de Klerk's mandate and bring closer the goal of an interim black government.

With a "yes" vote behind them and an investment code from the ANC to dangle in front of financiers

'Nationalisation is not a problem for us, it is not a sacred cow'

in Britain, Europe and America, prospects for new investment will be better than at any time in the past decade. But foreign investors have every reason to be sceptical.

The ANC has changed its mind on economic policy more times in the past two years than one can remember. Several different economists are working on future policy and often appear to be at odds. One ANC leader says one thing; another says the opposite.

While the ANC has done an excellent job portraying itself as a government-in-waiting, its future status is far from certain. There is talk of a Swiss-style federation with a Zulu "canton" in Natal, a Xhosa nation in the South-East, a separate Bophuthatswana, and even a white homeland for recalcitrant Afrikaners. The ANC's role in such a set-up is unclear, but one must assume it will have an important say.

One reason for the confusion is the ANC's concern with pluralism and its own internal structures. "The whole process has to be participatory in order to be sustainable," Mr Sisulu said. "You've had experiences in this country where the government has been moving from one position to another without any coherence, without any plan, without any strategy, without any vision. This has had terrible effects on the economy."

He has a point. South Africa is in its third year of recession, inflation is running at 16 per cent and unemployment is high and growing.

Despite conflicting signals, the ANC is clear on one thing. It wants no new investment in South Africa until an interim government is in place, and is opposed to South

African bond issues on the international capital markets, which it views as sanctions-busting.

Mr Sisulu said: "Until there is a new form of government, until there's some kind of agreement on the constitution, we are opposed to any investment in South Africa or loans because these tend to strengthen the present illegitimate regime."

"Having said that, we recognise that foreign investment has played an important role in South Africa and elsewhere. We would welcome

'We will want some of the profits to flood into the country'

in the future foreign investment and would like to believe that foreign investment will contribute to economic growth as well as to increasing the standards of the people."

Mr Sisulu said he would like to see the republic develop as an exporter of manufactured goods rather than become a dumping ground for other countries. Fly-by-night investment was also out. Instead, the ANC is interested in companies that will come in, set up labour-intensive

plants in areas such as the Eastern Cape where work is desperately needed, and pump some of their profits back into the communities.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, conceded last month that talk of nationalising key industries was certain to alienate foreign investors. Mr Sisulu said mass nationalisation had been ruled out. "Nationalisation is not a problem for us, it is not a sacred cow. I don't see massive nationalisation going on. It is simply one of those options and one of the policy instruments for change. We are not opposed to privatisation."

However, this seemingly moderate position on state control contrasts sharply with highly interventionist thinking elsewhere. There are tensions, if not contradictions, implicit here. The giant corporations that dominate the business scene — Barlow Rand, De Beers, Anglo American, Rembrandt, SA Breweries — will have to be broken up, the ANC says. How this can be done without exercising extensive state power is not clear.

For the owners of the companies that dominate South African business and the potential foreign investors standing by, the resolution of such issues is crucial. Would the present economic structure remain largely intact? "Yes and no," says Mr Sisulu enigmatically. "Ten per cent of the population own almost 90 per cent of the personal wealth in this country. A seventh of that 10 per cent contributes 60 per cent of the GDP. One per cent of the companies listed on the JSE are black."

"So you have a minority within a minority controlling all the production, distribution and trade in this country. You have one conglomerate controlling everything — trade, housing, everything. We think that is not healthy for the economy."

"We are looking at anti-monopoly/anti-trust legislation; we want to see how it works elsewhere and how it can be applied in South Africa to break up the monopolies and to open up competition."

For some time, the ANC has talked of a mixed economy that will combine elements of a free market with a degree of state control. It is clear the ANC has much to do in translating generalities into policy.

John Taylor, South Africa analyst at James Capel, said there are grounds for cautious optimism. "Overseas investors cannot take it on faith that the ANC will implement a practical macroeconomic strategy. They will require explicit statements and commitments. Our hope is that the ANC will come up with sensible strategies simply because there is really no other option."

A blueprint for foreign investors is a great step forward. But in the end, when South Africa is under new management, it will take a handful of brave — or merely impetuous — investors to set an example for others to follow. Only when others have had time to learn from their experiences will the floodgates open.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Millham is Streets ahead

STREETS, the public relations firm, which suffered a setback when 43 of its key employees walked out at the end of 1987, will soon be back on the map in the City. David Millham, aged 53, one of the three founding partners of Shandwick, who was unceremoniously made redundant in December, after 27 years, has agreed to join Streets as executive deputy chairman. He will work alongside Keith Lewis, the chief executive, and spearhead a move into "the pic sector of PR". Millham, who insists that he is not bitter about his treatment by Shandwick — "but it did come as a bit of a shock," he says — claims that he simply wants to return to work after being forced to spend four months in limbo. His arrival at Streets is, he adds, no laughing matter, even though his starting date is April 1. He admits, however, that the job will have its lighter moments. He and Lewis, after all, worked together before. In 1962, when Lewis was 16 and Millham eight years older, they were both employed in the prices room at the *Financial Times*. Millham progressed to better things — he moved to *The Times* as the new issues editor.

Born to the job

THE Laganside Corporation, which is redeveloping central Belfast's riverside districts, has appointed, as its river manager, the aptly named Derek Weir, a civil engineer. Weir, charged with



"Who do you intend to vote for in the national lottery?"

masterminding the development of the hitherto neglected Lagan as a leisure amenity, as well as drafting protective by-laws and monitoring its water quality, will also be responsible for commissioning the £11 million weir that will, from October, maintain a constant level over what are, at present, stretches of inter-tidal mud.

Drawing near

WITH less than a month to go before the Grand National on April 4, the annual stock exchange draw, organised by the Dramatic & Operatic Society, is underway. As in previous years, the first prize is likely to be about £24,000, representing 40 per cent of the total take — limited to a maximum of £60,000. The second prize will represent 20 per cent, the third prize 10 per cent and the fourth prize 5 per cent. Of the remainder, 15 per cent will be divided among the other runners, and 10 per cent will go to the dramatic and operatic associ-

ation's jubilee charity fund. "We will accept members' cheques only, no cash, and the lists will close on Wednesday," says Roy Phillips, of Garban Equities, the inter-dealer broker. The fund's office is Box A5, London Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street.

On the move

DAVID Cheesewright, the fourth of five brothers, all of whom once worked in the City, started work at Fiske & Co last week, after a two-year stint with Keith Bayley Rogers. Cheesewright, aged 45, once a market-maker on the property book for Acroyd & Smithers, says the move was inspired by the geographical location of Fiske's offices, in Salisbury House, London Wall. His daily journey from his Essex home has been reduced by 25 minutes each way, since Keith Bayley Rogers is situated in Borough High Street, south of the Thames. Only one brother, Alan, still works in the Square Mile.

Viney recruited

CLAIMING that he is disillusioned with stockbroking after a 27-year career and that he did not know how else to utilise his contacts, Nigel Viney, ex-Simon & Coates and, until ten days ago, with Brewin Dolphin, has become a recruitment consultant. Viney, aged 44, has joined Elizabeth Sullivan at the Hop Exchange, Southwark Street. "It has always been my ambition to work for a woman," declares Viney, bravely. "I am completely awestruck."

CAROL LEONARD

Trading jobs for minimum pay

From the Secretary of State for Employment

Sir, The Business News section of *The Times* (March 5) reported the CBI's analysis of Labour's minimum wage proposals. The report noted that the policy's implications for both business costs and levels of employment were crucially dependent on the extent to which pay differentials were restored. However, the Comment column ignored the way in which the restoration of differentials would determine the scale of the damage that a minimum wage would undoubtedly cause. As a result, it referred to the CBI's estimates as being "oddly precise".

An examination of the CBI's report on this subject shows that, in common with other experts, the CBI emphasises the importance of the knock-on effects of introducing a minimum wage. If differentials were restored in full, the CBI calculated that the total increase in employers' costs "could run as high as £50 billion a year, equivalent to the average pay costs of over 3 million workers". In the unlikely event of there being no attempt to restore

differentials, the number of job losses would — according to the CBI — amount to 150,000, and the increased costs to around £2.5 billion. As the CBI's paper points out, "the damage to competitiveness would be very great" even if the adverse impact of the minimum wage was restricted in this way.

I should add that the CBI paper continued by saying that a minimum wage would not be an effective way of tackling low pay. The loss of both competitiveness and jobs would, therefore, be entirely in vain.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL HOWARD,
House of Commons, SW1.

From Mrs F. M. Barger

Sir, When the CBI state that minimum wages will cost £2.5 billion a year, they are saying that the workers of this country are grossly underpaid to the tune of that sum.

Perhaps a little trimming at the top would help employers to pay a proper wage to the workers at the bottom.

Yours faithfully,
F. M. BARGER,
68 South Hill Park,
NW3.

All power to a viable British coal industry

From Marcelle Hirst

Sir, Mr FG de L. Rutherford (Business letters March 3) condemns your correspondent Mr Pons for advocating that PowerGen should import cheaper coal and not buy British, in order to produce cheaper power.

This may be so. However, I would prefer to believe the view of Mr Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, that longer term a viable British

coal industry is essential for the electricity industry.

As a shareholder in PowerGen I would prefer it did not hasten the demise of the British coal industry at present, but take a longer-term look at the free market.

Yours faithfully,
MARCELLE HIRST,
Prospect House,
Flaxton,
York.

Mr Speaker, I shall begin with a review of the

On Tuesday afternoon Norman Lamont delivers his pre-election economic situation and prospects. I shall then deal

budget speech. Find out what it means for interest rates, exchange

with monetary policy and the public finances. rates, the economy, your business and you. As the Chancellor rises

Finally, I will present my tax proposals. I have to his feet call up Reuters Pages **RBSA-B**, and watch The Royal Bank

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CAPITAL MARKETS

UK firms stand up well to credit scrutiny

IN SPITE of the relentless pounding of the recession, the credit quality of rated British companies stood up fairly well last year. Only seven British companies rated by Standard & Poor's (S&P) had their ratings lowered last year, although plenty of British companies not rated by the agency, notably Maxwell Communications, suffered declines in credit quality.

The downgrades were on short-term debt of Asda, Burton, Rank Organisation and Slough Estates; on the long-term debt of Forti and J Sainsbury, and on the preferred stock of Rank and Ratners.

One British company, Cadbury Schweppes, saw its debt upgraded. Another five continental companies — Fiat, Olivetti, Philips, Rautaruukki Oy and SKF — were also downgraded. In total, 15 per cent of the European companies rated by S&P, of which the majority are British or Swedish, were downgraded. According to S&P, the relative stability of the ratings of British and continental debt issuers was in part due to the fact that the majority of rated European issuers tend to be higher quality credits than typical American issuers.

The median rating for a European issuer is A, compared with BB in America. European-rated companies, so the argument goes, tend to be multinationals and are therefore inherently more stable than many large American companies dependent on the American market.

Another reason behind the relative stability of European ratings has been the limited amount of major debt-funded financial restructuring that took place during the Eighties compared with America, where entire sectors suffered massive declines in credit quality through recapitalisations and leveraged buyouts.

Where sensible financial structures have prevailed, most companies have generally been able to retain their ratings.

Says S&P: "Ratings are designed to reflect an issuer's credit worthiness through normal business cycles. Well-managed companies with strong operating positions and financial profiles generally weather recessions with their ratings intact."

Clearly, in Britain, the sector that has undergone the greatest decline in credit quality is retail, with two of Britain's biggest supermarket groups and two of its largest high street chains being downgraded.

For Europe as a whole, S&P sees the car manufacturing, property, construction, steel and electronics sectors coming under the most pressure this year, as previously protected domestic markets are exposed to competition through the removal of market barriers within the European Community.

JONATHAN PRYNN

United Biscuits expected to rise



Upbeat note: Bob Clarke's United Biscuits is tipped to advance despite the effects of recession

ANNUAL profits from United Biscuits are expected to show a modest rise when they are announced on Thursday despite the recession and stiff competition in the UK.

David Atkinson, at County NatWest, expects pre-tax profits at the world's second-largest biscuits group to rise to £206 million, against £197.7 million. Market forecasts range from £205 million to £210 million. County expects earnings per share of 28.2p (27.6p), with a dividend of 14.5p (14.4p).

UB, headed by Bob Clarke, will have had a mixed year, the overseas businesses having performed better than those in Britain, which accounts for a little over 50 per cent of sales and about 65 per cent of profits. Aggressive cost-cutting in UB's McVitie's biscuit business will have enabled it to weather the recession, but the group is likely only to have maintained sales volumes in a British biscuit market that was up about 2 per cent in 1991.

UB's snacks business, which includes the KP brands and is Europe's number one snacks group, will have traded better in continental Europe than in the UK. However, the recession on both sides of the Atlantic will have meant trading down to lower-margin products, both in KP's business in the UK and Keebler in America.

Ross Young's, UB's British frozen and chilled foods unit, is likely to see a slight fall in trading profits, due to some down-trading to own-label products from branded lines and difficult conditions in the recession-hit catering market. However, benefits from restructuring should start to come through in 1992 and help profits advance. Mr Atkinson sees "a better level of growth in 1992".

TODAY

Analysts expect BBA Group, the automotive, industrial and aviation group, to report final profits between £48 million and £52 million (£75.1 million).

Polypipe, the acquisitive plastic pipes and garden furniture group, is likely to report first-half profits of between £5 million and £5.5 million.

Interims: Closs Brothers Group, Cornwell Parker, Mucklow (A & J) Group, Plet Petroleum, Polypipe, Thornton, Fessie, BSA Group, Calderburn, Candover Investments, Consolidated Venture Trust, Fairway Group, File Indmar, Groves, Merchants Trust, Perkins Foods, Persimmon, Ransomes, Summit, Takara, Transport Development Group, USDC Investment Trust.

Economic statistics: Credit business (January).

TOMORROW

Glynwed International, the Midlands engineering and industrial products group, which is seen by many as a barometer of the engineering sector, is expected to see final profits slump from £75.1 million to £26.2 million in "very tough" trading conditions, according to Chris Avery at Smith New Court.

Market forecasts range from £22 million to £27 million. Interims: BA Group, Castle Communications, Logica, Finlake American Trust, Bullers, Clondakin Group, De Beers Centenary AG, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Glynwed International, HSBC Holdings, Inch Kenneth Kalam, Kinta Kalam Investments, Pace Systems, Plaxton Group, Saatchi & Saatchi, Sandvik AB, Strong & Fisher (Holdings), Thailand International Fund, Unigroup, Wales, City of London Properties.

Economic statistics: Producer price index numbers (February - provisional); international banking statistics (fourth quarter); labour force survey (1991); workforce in employment; revisions to third quarter (whole economy) and to December 1991 (production).

WEDNESDAY

BTR, the industrial conglomerate that last year won control of the Hawker Siddeley engineering group after a

fierce £1.5 billion takeover battle, is expected to show a decline in final profits, although the City's attention will be on the outlook.

Charles Pick, at Nomura, expects BTR to announce profits of £900 million, down from £966 million last time. Market forecasts range from £884 million to £920 million. Mr Pick is looking for earnings per share of 29.1p (31.8p) and a dividend of 16.5p (15.75p).

Annual profits at Hillsdown Holdings, the diversified food manufacturing group, are expected to slip to £185 million (£191.2 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £182 million to £185 million.

Standard Chartered, the international banking group, is expected to report final profits of £204 million, against £150 million last

time, according to Morgan Stanley. Market forecasts range from £180 million to £220 million. Buoyant conditions in the Asia-Pacific region should offset the more depressed conditions gripping Britain and other parts of Europe.

Charles Coyne, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, expects Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, to announce final profits of £98 million (£81.7 million), although City attention will focus on the size of any fourth-quarter extraordinary provision relating to Sovereign, the underwriting operation.

Interims: Everest Foods, Gent (SR), Finesse Agis Group, Agis, Ansbacher (Henry) Holdings, BTR Nyves, BTR, BWD Securities, Grosvenor Development Capital, Hillsdown Holdings, Kleinwort Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Nichols (JH) (Vimco), North Midland Construction, Novonordisk AB, Second Market Investment Company, Simon En-

gineering, Standard Chartered, Stora, Kopparbergs Bergslags AB, T & N, Whitgate Leisure, Willis Corroon Group.

THURSDAY

Worldwide recessionary pressures on volumes and weak mineral prices will have affected RTZ, the world's largest mining group. Nomura is looking for net income of £320 million (£507 million), with earnings per share of 32.4p (51.4p) and a maintained dividend of 19.5p.

Smith New Court expects T1 Group, the engineering group, to make full-year profits of £110 million (£128.4 million). Market forecasts range from £100 million to £110 million. Some areas should have been quite resilient to the recession despite the group's exposure to the automotive and white goods markets.

Graham Bell, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, expects lower oil prices and higher operating costs at Enterprise Oil to result in a fall in net income to £108 million (£156.5 million). Market forecasts range from £105 million to £120 million. However, Mr Bell is looking for a dividend of 16.25p (15p).

Interims: Coranation Syndicate, Ex-Landra, Girard, Twelffontein United Collieries, Finesse Abbeycrest, Abbott Mead Vickers, Baynes (Charles), Borden Holdings, Blagden Industries, Clarke (T), Edmond Holdings, EFT Group, Enesa, Enterprise Oil, Evered Bardon, Hall Engineering (Holdings), Jones (A) & Sons, Koda International, Legal & General Group, Padang Senang Holdings, RTZ Corporation, Thornton Pan-European Investment Trust, T1 Group, United Biscuits (Holdings).

Economic statistics: CSI survey of distributive trades (February - provisional); provisional figures of vehicle production (February); capital issues and redemptions (February).

FRIDAY

Interims: Headway, Walker (Thomas), Finesse Global Group, Kerry Group, Last Services.

Economic statistics: Usable steel production (February); construction output (fourth quarter - provisional).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Offshoot of O&Y to raise £500m

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

OLYMPIA & York Developments, the private Canadian property group building London's £3 billion Canary Wharf project, is set to raise almost £51 billion (£500 million) in cash following an increase in the risk rating of some of its short-term credit.

GW Utilities, an energy group controlled by O&Y, is selling its 63.5 per cent of Interprovincial Pipe Line for a gross \$365 million and is in active negotiations to sell its 41 per cent in Home Oil Company, estimated to be worth \$243 million.

It is unclear how much of the proceeds from the sale of GW Utilities' shareholding will go directly to O&Y. GW plans to pay a \$4.50 a share dividend after the offering of its stake in Interprovincial Pipe Line which would give O&Y \$358 million.

GW will receive the proceeds in two tranches, \$378 million by the end of this month and the balance in a year's time.

The fundraising comes after O&Y redemption of some \$240 million of commercial paper in the last fortnight. A further \$260 million will be bought back within the next three months.

A separate \$300 million commercial paper issue remains unaffected and its credit rating has not been changed.

A spokesman for O&Y said yesterday: "O&Y is current on all its obligations and expects to remain so. There was a lot of concern exhibited this week by investors about this commercial paper issue and that concern was brought about by the Dominion bond rating report downgrade; and as a result O&Y is going to wind down the programme."

"We will be funding from other corporate resources and I don't think O&Y will specifically identify what those resources are," the spokesman added.

Disney to give up attractions

FROM REUTER IN BURBANK

WALT Disney plans to stop operating the Queen Mary ship and Spruce Goose aeroplane attractions in Long Beach, California.

WCO Port Properties, a Disney subsidiary, will end its lease for operating the attractions, which was acquired as part of its 1988 purchase of the Wrather Corporation.

Disney said: "The Queen Mary has not been a profitable operation as a tourist attraction."

Last December, Disney scrapped plans for a proposed sea theme park in Long Beach, which would have been linked to the Queen Mary and the Spruce Goose, which was Howard Hughes' wooden aeroplane.

Disney will continue to operate the attractions until the end of September.

Holiday firms set trend in new company contest

LAST year was hardly a vintage year for new issues but there are five strong candidates for the new company of the year category in the forthcoming Coopers & Lybrand PLC awards, held in association with The Times.

Barocamp, the camping holiday operator once part of Next, took the plunge in July. Offered at 225p, the shares attracted healthy support, with 85.2 per cent of the issue taken up.

Investors have not been disappointed. The shares have climbed to 310p and pre-tax profits are expected to be £9.4 million (£8.16 million) this year. The company, led by Richard Atkinson, believes it will enjoy continued growth in Europe and benefit from the Channel tunnel.

Airbreak also benefited from resilient demand for holidays despite the recession.

SMALLER COMPANIES

This fast-growing tour operator made its debut on the Unlisted Securities Market in August at 25p via a low-key placing. The shares have risen to 54p, encouraged by good prospects. Champion Group taking a stake of 19 per cent, and a joint venture with Goldcrest Aviation.

Also on the shortlist is Frost Group, the petrol retailer that made history by being floated out of the collapsed Norfolk House Group by the receivers. The offer was oversubscribed and allocations were scaled down. The shares have performed well, rising from the issue price of 235p to 329p. Profits are expected to more than double in 1992 to £5.3 million before tax.

Harrington Kilbride, the specialist publisher led by Ted Croker, has made steady progress since December's placing. The shares have advanced from 120p to 148p despite the fact that the offer price was considered to value the company fully.

The final candidate is Clarke Foods, the ice-cream manufacturer formerly Yelverton Investments, which was restructured after the acquisition of three ice-cream companies from Hillsdown Holdings in February 1991. This was followed in January 1992 by the £12 million purchase of the Lyons Maid ice-cream business from Allied Lyons, partly financed via a £6.8 million rights issue. The shares are now worth 130p, against 39p when Yelverton was suspended before the relaunch.

MARTIN BARROW



Weathering the recession: Richard Atkinson, Eurcamp managing director

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

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Long-term outlook brightens

INVESTORS' minds are now firmly focused on the election. Small fluctuations in opinion polls are starting to have a marked effect on sentiment in the gilt market, as investors worry about the possibility of a change of government. With the two main parties still apparently running neck and neck in the polls, this uncertainty seems set to continue until polling day and possibly beyond.

Step back from the political uncertainty for a moment and the longer-term fundamentals for the gilt market are extremely favourable, regardless of the election outcome. There are two key parts to this reasoning.

First, underlying inflation pressures are collapsing. Pay settlements are on the verge of falling beyond 5 per cent for the first time since the Sixties, which, with the resumption of an upward trend in productivity, is paving the way for a substantial reduction in core inflation to about 3 per cent in 1993. With economic activity likely to remain below trend until well into next year, and in the absence of inflationary impulses from abroad, there is little reason to expect any pick-up in inflation from

this level for some time thereafter. The recession has been deep and prolonged enough to secure, at one attempt, inflation convergence with the rest of the European Community.

The second favourable influence on the gilt market is the solid commitment by the main parties to the ERM. Both Labour and the Conservatives have given a pledge to maintain the central sterling parity of DM2.95. While any policy is open to reconsideration

once the election is over, it seems unlikely either party would willingly jeopardise the credibility of the exchange-rate commitment that has been painstakingly built up over the past 18 months. Provided this commitment is maintained after the election, and demonstrated by strong words, intervention and, if necessary, higher short-term interest rates, as I believe it will, international investors will soon go back to comparing gilt yields with yields in other

ERM countries. Given the prospective inflation improvement and relatively small exchange rate risk, it is difficult to justify a spread between British and German bond yields of more than 100 basis points, and certainly not as high as the 160-point gap seen last week.

Admittedly, there will be a heavy supply of gilts in the next financial year and beyond, which the Chancellor's tax cuts tomorrow will boost. But this need not

of government, there can be no certainty about how it will act. Ultimately, the spread between gilt yields and other European bond yields will depend on the perceived strength of the next government's commitment to the existing exchange rate parities against other ERM members.

Short-term uncertainty about Labour's commitment to the ERM, for example, could certainly take spreads higher and it is possible that an outright Labour victory could see the spread widen to 190-200 basis points. The rise in yields could be even higher in the event of a Labour minority government because of the temptation to throw caution to the winds in an attempt to court popularity.

However, in the event of any additional political risk premium emerging, this should be seen as a medium-term buying opportunity for gilts. With the main trend in German bond yields also likely to be moderately downwards over the next year, ten-year gilt yields should be significantly lower than present levels under any government on a 12-18 month view.

DAVID WALTON
Goldman Sachs

'It seems unlikely either party would want to jeopardise the credibility of the exchange-rate commitment'

THE TIMES

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6	Phoenix Theatre	Building	100
7	Nichols (DN)	Retail	100
8	Northwell	Industrial	100
9	Great Shires	Industrial	100
10	JAAP Int	Industrial	100
11	Countrywide	Building	100
12	Anglia TV	Media	100
13	Harcos C&I	Industrial	100
14	Body Shop	Beauty	100
15	Procter & Gamble	Consumer	100
16	British Telecom	Telecom	100
17	Thames Properties	Real Estate	100
18	Fluoride	Chemical	100
19	Barclays	Banking	100
20	Sainsbury	Retail	100
21	Granville	Industrial	100
22	Marley	Building	100
23	McAlpine (A)	Building	100
24	Parsons	Industrial	100
25	Murray Energy	Energy	100
26	Brannan	Industrial	100
27	BOC	Industrial	100
28	IMI	Industrial	100
29	Logica	IT	100
30	Color Corp	IT	100
31	Procter & Gamble	Consumer	100
32	Unit Group	Consumer	100
33	Flint Leisure	Leisure	100
34	Ashtley Group	Retail	100
35	Glynwed	Industrial	100
36	BOC	Industrial	100
37	Barclays	Banking	100
38	Barclays	Banking	100
39	Alcon	Industrial	100
40	Down	Industrial	100
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42	Repsol	Industrial	100
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2. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
3. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
4. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
5. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
6. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
7. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
8. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
9. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
10. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
11. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
12. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
13. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
14. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
15. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
16. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
17. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
18. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
19. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
20. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
21. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
22. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
23. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
24. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
25. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
26. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
27. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
28. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
29. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
30. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
31. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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34. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
35. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
36. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
37. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
38. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
39. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
40. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
41. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
42. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
43. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
44. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
45. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
46. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
47. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
48. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
49. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
50. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10

BREWERIES

Company	Share Price	Dividend	HP
1. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
2. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
3. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
4. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
5. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
6. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
7. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
8. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
9. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
10. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
11. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
12. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
13. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
14. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
15. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
16. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
17. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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41. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
42. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
43. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
44. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
45. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
46. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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48. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
49. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
50. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Share Price	Dividend	HP
1. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
2. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
3. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
4. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
5. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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7. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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23. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
24. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
25. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
26. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
27. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
28. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
29. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
30. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
31. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
32. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
33. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
34. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
35. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
36. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
37. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
38. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
39. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
40. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
41. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
42. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
43. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
44. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
45. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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49. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
50. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Share Price	Dividend	HP
1. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
2. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
3. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
4. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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13. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
14. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
15. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
16. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
17. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
18. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
19. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
20. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
21. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
22. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
23. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
24. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
25. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
26. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
27. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
28. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
29. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
30. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
31. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
32. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
33. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
34. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
35. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
36. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
37. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
38. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
39. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
40. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
41. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
42. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
43. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Share Price	Dividend	HP
1. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
2. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
3. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
4. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
5. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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10. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
11. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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14. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
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17. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
18. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
19. Abbey	1.10	1.10	1.10
20. Abbey	1.10		

Cambridge mix toil and spoil to find formula

BY ALAN LORIMKE

SCORERS: Scotland: Try: Edwards. Penalty goals: Hastings (2). France: Penalty goals: Laford (2).

Penalties/free kicks	Award	Top Goals	Miss
Woodward	2	2	2
Woods	13	1	3
Wall (taken)			
	Run	Kick	Pass
Goal	1	2	30
Ballie	0	0	37
Chambers	3	15	4
Forward	0	0	15
Goals at goal			
	Total	Con	Miss
Goalkeeping	5	2	3
Forward	5	2	3
Forward was unsuccessful			in one
Forward as a dropped goal			
Complied by United			

Fibbens defeats Shortman by narrowest of margins

IRELAND: K J Murphy (Cork Constituency); R M Wallace (Garryowen), D M Currie (London Irish), P P A Donohue (Garryowen, captain), S P George (London Irish); D R McAleese (Ballymena), F P Ahern (Londonderry), N J Coogan (Garryowen), S J Smith (Ballymena), G F Haplin (London Irish), P Grayson, M J Glynn (Ballymena), M J Gibbons (Shannon), B F Robinson (Ballymena). Replacement: V J G Cunningham (St Mary's College), R P O'Connell (London Irish), D C Fitzgerald (CLSF), T Kingston (Dolphin), F J Lawlor (Native Harpers).

a well-run meet that will be our last big event before the Olympic trials," Fibbens said. □ Angel Martino, née Myers, the American who was banned for 16 months in 1988 for testing positive for

abolic steroids, will compete at the Barcelona Olympics.

Martino, aged 24, from North River, who claimed birth control pills were responsible for her positive test at the selection trials for Seoul, finished second to Jenny Thompson in the 50 metres freestyle at the trials for Barcelona in Indianapolis. Thompson's time of 25.20sec was a United States record.

Results, page 27

Crows celebrate

Chinese international whose long struggle to get a British passport succeeded three months ago, yesterday be-

Chen, born in Fukien, set

rean, whose ability against defensive players is renowned. This time he achieved it by relinquishing

ame, but in the second it became less necessary as rean surprisingly lost his

CRACKER WITH WHADDON CHASE
 1. Chasing The Whaddon (11/20/82) 1. Blakey
 2. Michael Connell 14 n. Confirmed (Div 1)
 1. Brother Michael (11/21/82) 1. Shaylor, 14-12;
 2. Bold King's Huzzar; 3. Alpha One, 17 ran
 Confirmed (Div 1); 1. Radical Views (11/22/82)
 4-7; 2. Ling Hall; 3. Border
 Burg, 14 ran. PPOA Martis; 1. Fine Line
 14-12; 2. 14-12; 3. 14-12; 4. 14-12; 5. 14-12;
 6. 14-12; 7. 14-12; 8. 14-12; 9. 14-12; 10. 14-12;
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erry, 5-2; 2, Alburton; 3, Basket Weave.
3 ran. Ladies' 1, Green Archer (Miss H)
3 dead-end, 5-2 1st run; 2, Roman Wood; 3,
downside 17 ran. With 1st 1, The
Breeze (Hickie); 2, Zamboni Boy;
3, Darle Egan (Hickie).
1 ran. Ladies' 1, Green Archer (Miss H), 17 sec.
1 ran. Men (A.H., 25-1; 2, Jack's Barre; 3,
Georgia). 14 ran.

CORALBELLY (Blackberry Patch, Hunt)
1, Force Sea (Miss J) Dawson, 4-6 sec.; 2,
Joe Hill Speedist; 3, Firegem. 5 ran.
1 ran. Ladies' 1, Cornwell Tom (S R Au-
gustine); 2, 10-1; 3, 10-1.
1 ran. Ladies' 1, Penny Pals (Miss F)
Jack, 2-5 sec.; 2, Handcuff; only 2
finished 3 ran. Open: 1, Good Waters (J
Sharp, 2-1); 2, Run West; 3, Freddie Tait.
1 ran. Ladies' 1, Gray Knight (C Deady, 2-1
sec.); 2, 10-1; 3, 10-1.
1 ran. Ladies' 1, Kameo Commander (C
Dun, 5-1); 2, River Spout; 3, Safety Kick.
5 runs.

HIDDINGSFOLD, LEONARD &

pool and Mansfield are playing a style of football which would not be out of place much higher up.

Burnley are a Premier League club in all but name.

and at last are beginning to play football to match their surroundings. Their last two home matches, against Blackpool and Barnet, have attracted crowds of 18,111 and 12,018 respectively and the football on display has been a credit to the division.

In the end on Saturday Burnley won much more convincingly than the scoreline suggests, to assuage the claims of a founder.

member over the League's newest recruits. Yet, paradoxically, Barnet also made a significant contribution to the game.

Some may find Barnet a difficult club to warm to. But on this occasion they proved credit to their manager, sticking with a flourish.

"I told our players that Barnet would not wait and s

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Times of

1. Quack Advice (N Bloom): fit stiles
 Open Mid 1: 1. Curmabout (D Eslen),
 2. Loganbank 3; 3. Lucy's Ring 12
 4. Master Treasure (Miss
 Esclon, 11-21); 2. Needwood Normal,
 Spring Run 9 ran. Open 1, York Royal
 2, 45 ran. 2. Man Of Fun;
 3. 5 ran. Rest 1. Manor Wiso
 11-22; 2. Casper Flyer; 3.
 3. Snodgrass 15 ran. Confirmed: 1. So to
 11. Gungel, Evans fav), 2. Dickey Time
 3. Berryman neighbour 6 ran. BSSS (N
 1. Rubie's Choice (Miss 2 Turn
 4 fav); 2. O Celina; 3. Sing River, 6 n
 Open Mid 1: 1. Aldington Baron
 2. Ballyhennagh 3; 3. Me
 Strides 10 ran.

[illegible]

alifiers

1990s. Our results suggest that the impact of the 1990s on the growth of the U.S. economy was not as strong as the impact of the 1980s. The growth rate of the U.S. economy in the 1990s was lower than the growth rate in the 1980s. This is consistent with the findings of other studies that show that the growth rate of the U.S. economy has been declining since the 1980s. The decline in the growth rate of the U.S. economy in the 1990s may be due to a number of factors, including the decline in the growth rate of the private sector, the decline in the growth rate of the public sector, and the decline in the growth rate of the government sector. The decline in the growth rate of the private sector may be due to a number of factors, including the decline in the growth rate of the manufacturing sector, the decline in the growth rate of the services sector, and the decline in the growth rate of the government sector. The decline in the growth rate of the public sector may be due to a number of factors, including the decline in the growth rate of the federal government, the decline in the growth rate of the state government, and the decline in the growth rate of the local government. The decline in the growth rate of the government sector may be due to a number of factors, including the decline in the growth rate of the federal government, the decline in the growth rate of the state government, and the decline in the growth rate of the local government.

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Forest flogged as Portsmouth reach FA Cup semi-finals and revive thoughts of glories past

McLoughlin ends Clough's dream

Portsmouth.....1
Nottingham Forest.....0

BY CLIVE WHITE

IN A season where tradition is about to be unceremoniously dumped for the sake of the financial expediency of the few, the sound of the Pompey chimes ringing out defiantly over Fratton Park on Saturday will have been sweet music to the ears of those who still believe that the past has a place in the future.

Not since Jimmy Dickinson led Portsmouth to the League championship 42 years ago has the club had so much cause to celebrate, which it did with an inhibition which reflected the long wait. It was a game worthy of the occasion and played in the best spirit of the FA Cup, from which not even the dismissal of Brian Laws, the Nottingham Forest right back, in the 64th minute for a foul on John Beresford could detract.

However much a part of all our yesterdays Portsmouth may be, the team, ironically, is very much one of tomorrow: indeed, the ideal Premier League graduate. Resourceful, skilful and honest, it is a team after Forest's own heart. That, at least, must have been a consolation for Brian Clough, who seems fazed never to lift the FA Cup, no matter how many visits he makes to Wembley.

Instead, it is left to Jim Smith, second only to Clough in terms of managerial longevity, to contemplate that prestigious honour this season and the certainty of his first FA Cup semi-final. Smith would rather have promotion any day. He likes to believe that Portsmouth's FA Cup success can have a beneficial effect on their promotion drive, though history may beg to differ. The poor Premier League may have to brace themselves for receiving the likes of Cambridge United instead.

But that is for the future. This was a victory to savour

and one that was thoroughly deserved even if it was handed to Portsmouth on a plate. After just 90 seconds, Pearce, the Forest captain, in attempting to soften up young Anderson, Portsmouth's prodigiously talented winger, conceded a free kick which had disastrous consequences for last season's runners-up in the competition. Beresford's kick from the right played literally into Crossley's hands — and then out of them, providing McLoughlin with a simple tap-in. That must have had them eating their hearts out a few miles along the south coast at Southampton, where, in another quarter-final, goals were conspicuous by their absence.

McLoughlin is on loan to the club from Southampton, who have permitted him to play in the competition providing it is not against them. Smith hopes to make the deal permanent as soon as possible and has already agreed a fee of £350,000 for the player who cost Southampton £1 million from Swindon 15 months ago.

Thereafter Portsmouth, beaten only once at home in the League this season, owed their success to some splendidly resolute defending, notably on the part of Awford and Symons, an exceptional pair of young centre backs, who restricted Forest to two or three chances. The pick of them was a superbly directed header by Pearce in the 15th minute, which looked all over a goal until Knight produced a save of the highest order.

The magnificence of Portsmouth was equalled only by the magnanimity of their manager, who conceded that his team was helped by Forest's physical condition following their exhaustive Rumbelow Cup semi-final the previous Sunday and a further game in midweek.

As for Clough, as generous as ever in defeat, he may have rued his decision not to settle his differences with Sutton, his former goalkeeper who many considered superior to



Kept at arm's length: Keane, of Nottingham Forest, overcomes the attention of Burns at Fratton Park

Crossley but was last week sold to Derby County. Clough kept his thoughts for Crossley. "I haven't had time to feel sorry for myself yet but my heart goes out to the goalkeeper," he said. "We've

all got to remember that a week earlier he was making the saves that got us to Wembley. He'll get over it in time, even though it was very disappointing to lose

a match in that way." Brian Clough won the Barclays' manager-of-the-month award for February for taking Forest to Wembley for the ZDS Cup and Rumbelow Cup finals.

PORTSMOUTH: A. Knight, A. Awford, J. Beresford, D. Powell (capt.), M. Anderson, S. Symons, G. Burns, W. Hill, M. Keane, C. Crossley, G. Whitham, A. McLoughlin, D. Anderson.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, S. Law, S. Pearce, D. Walker, D. Vassell, K. Keane, G. Crossley, S. Samuels, N. Clough, E. Strachan (capt.), S. Chettle, L. Oliver, R. Hogg, S. Lodge.

Stuart may earn recall

GRAHAM Stuart is poised to fill the inspirational boots of Vinny Jones for Chelsea's FA Cup quarter-final match against Sunderland at Stamford Bridge tonight.

Stuart scored the goal that swept Chelsea through the fifth round of the tournament. Since then, he was withdrawn from the draw with Nottingham Forest and started last Saturday's home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday as a substitute.

But now he is earmarked by the manager, Ian Porterfield, to replace the suspended Jones, ahead of Craig Burley.

Cup-tie that begs for decisive finish

Southampton.....0
Norwich City.....0

BY KEITH BLACKMORE

HERE was an argument in favour of the penalty shoot-out. The teams had been playing for no more than ten minutes at The Dell on Saturday before it became clear both would settle for a replay of their sixth-round FA Cup tie at Carrow Road on Wednesday next week.

"You say to yourself, if you can't win a Cup game, don't

lose it," Dave Stringer, the Norwich manager, said afterwards. "We are still in the hat — a semi-final is there for either side."

Ian Branfoot, the manager of Southampton, took much the same view. "I don't think anyone expects a sixth-round FA Cup match to be full of free-flowing football. It's the fear factor. Nobody wants to lose. Everybody wants to be in that hat when they make the semi-final draw."

But a match that neither side is trying very hard to win is not much fun to watch and

perhaps the time has come to abolish the replay altogether. The prospect of sudden death concentrates players' minds wonderfully, as we have seen already this season, not least from Southampton at Old Trafford in the fourth round.

As Branfoot admitted, the onus was on Southampton to attack at home, and with Le Tissier and Shearer in their tanks, they seemed well equipped to do it. But neither of these stars so much as glimmered thanks to Norwich's five-man defence and efficient outside trap.

Too often, the task of delivering the final touch fell to the likes of Hurlock, whose skills, such as they are, lie in other departments, and the one clear chance fell to Cockerill, who was confused by a bad bounce, from a sub-standard pitch, and put the ball over the bar from four yards with his knee.

All this suited Norwich very well, particularly in the first half when they were able to counter-attack with purpose. Flock and Butterworth forced good saves from Flowers, but their best chance came when

Fox found Newman unmarked 10 yards from goal, only for the midfield man's control to let him down.

And so to Carrow Road, where if neither side improves, penalties will decide. "We have five very good penalty takers," Branfoot said. "You saw that at Old Trafford."

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Flowers, J. Dodd, F. Bennett, S. Hogg, K. Moore, N. Roddick, M. Le Tissier, G. Cockerill, A. Shearer, I. Dowie, T. Norton.
NORWICH CITY: J. Hurlock, J. Cockerill, C. Woodhouse, J. Butterworth, J. Popleton, J. Shearer, R. Fox, R. Flock, R. Newman, C. Sutton, D. Phillips, R. Ashley.

Leeds capitalise on mistakes to regain title lead

Tottenham Hotspur.....1
Leeds United.....3

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SUMMER arrived early at Tottenham on Saturday, with Howard Wilkinson sporting a light-coloured suit, matching tie and pocket handkerchief, complemented by crocodile skin shoes more reminiscent of the Spanish Costas than north London. The amount of sand sprinkled on the tiny White Hart Lane pitch added to the relaxed seaside atmosphere.

Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, confirmed his side's overly laid-back approach. "We were rubbish," he said. Yet Tottenham Hotspur — or rather their defence — were worse.

While Leeds moved two points clear of Manchester United at the head of the first division, Tottenham's eleventh home defeat of the season equalled an unenviable record dating back to 1975.

Should they lose at Luton Town on Wednesday, Tottenham will be sucked into the demolition scrap — so much for their supposed standing as a pillar of the Premier League.

Peter Shreeves, their manager, admitted: "We could be in a relegation battle. Individual mistakes cost us."

Deary, the first occurred when Sedgley headed the ball straight into the path of Wallace, who advanced to beat

Thorstvedt from 15 yards for his tenth goal of the season.

That was in the 36th minute but, three minutes after half-time, Tottenham were level when Allen met a Stewart cross to side-foot an equaliser at the far post.

But for inspirational saves from Lukic, who performed wonders to deny Stewart and Durie, Shreeves's side could have gone in front.

Instead, it was Leeds who scored next and, this time, it was Thorstvedt's fault. He failed to cut out a Strachan corner and Newsome, who is still at Sheffield University and trains with Leeds three days a week, headed home in the 76th minute.

It was the cue for Cantona, the French international forward, to step off the bench. He took 30 seconds to capitalise on slack marking and deliver the pass from which McAllister struck Leeds' third.

So an afternoon that Strachan and Chapman, in particular, will recall as far from their finest enhanced Leeds' chances of becoming champions. It also begged the question of just what might Wilkinson wear to receive the freedom of Elland Road in May?

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E. Thorstvedt, T. Fenwick, P. van den Heuvel (capt.), G. Bergeson, S. Sedgley, D. Howells, P. Stewart, G. Durie, A. Allen (capt.), P. Vickers, P. Allen.
LEEDS UNITED: M. Lukic, M. Strachan (capt.), M. Newsome, M. Whistler (capt.), D. Cantona, D. Batley, C. Pennington, C. Whyle, G. Strachan, R. Wallace, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Sedgley, P. Hogg, R. Gifford.

City keep Coton but let in goals

Queen's Park Rangers.....4
Manchester City.....0

BY NICHOLAS HARRIS

LONG before the end of a match that left Manchester City's championship aspirations in tatters, the question of why their goalkeeper, Tony Coton, was allowed to stay on should have become an irrelevance.

Somewhat perversely, though, after one of the best performances of the season from Queen's Park Rangers and definitely the worst from City, according to their player-manager, Peter Reid, the main talking point continued to revolve around Coton.

Should he have gone for upending Andy Sinton in the 39th minute or did the referee, Michael James, do right by allowing him to continue after what was patently a professional foul when the goal was beckoning for Sinton.

"Common sense prevailed," Reid said. Not so, his counterpart, Gerry Francis, said, claiming that Coton should have been sent off just as he was for a similar offence against Derby County last season. The referee apparently said that Sinton was going away from the goal that a City defender was preparing to guard.

Francis made the point that had the goalkeeper done slightly better than push Clive Wilson's penalty against the post from where it entered the net, City would have still been in contention.

Ferdinand headed the first off an upright and banged in the third with City's defence in disarray. Impey supplied the crosses for Ferdinand's first goal and for the fourth, from Barker, a late substitute.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: J. Sheehan, D. Sheehan, G. Francis, G. Impey, D. Ferdinand, A. Barker, A. Morrison, G. Wilson (capt.), A. Ferdinand, G. Parnis (capt.), S. Barker, A. Morrison.
MANCHESTER CITY: A. Coton, A. Hill, N. Poulton, P. Reid, K. Curle, D. Wright, J. Sinton, S. Thompson, D. Quinn, S. Nicholson, A. Heath, P. James, M. James.

FA Cup Sixth round

PORTSMOUTH (1) NOTTINGHAM FOREST (0)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) NORWICH CITY (0)

Yesterday

LIVERPOOL (1) A VILLA (0)
THOMAS (0)

Barclays League First division

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Great Britain hand out lesson to weak France

(Star) (Gar) 4-6, 6-7, 6-8; D. Nargiso (Gar)
 to N. Catti (Star) 1-4, 5-5; A. Jervoy (Star)
 & J. Eltingh (Pen) 6-1, 6-2; D. Nargiso (N)
 to K. Christian (Den) 7-6, 7-8; Semi-Finals:
 Jervoy to Nargiso, 5-2, 3-5, 7-5; Larsson to
 Sacconi, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.
BDOCA RANKING, Florida: Werner's four-
 man team: Quarter-Finals: G. Cozzer (SA)
 & G. Sappelli (Afr) 4-5, 6-1, 6-2; S. Karg
 & Z. Garmann (US), 6-0, 5-7, 7-6; 1-1
 Penalties: D. Nargiso (N) to (Fr) 6-1, 6-2;
 C. Maritzes (S) to B. Rittner (Gar) 6-1, 6-2;
 S. Semi-Final: Maritzes to Cozzer, 4-5,
 6-3, 5-6; Gar to Fernandes, 5-5, 7-5.

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MONDAY MARCH 9 1992

Liverpool reach FA Cup semi-finals as long-term absentees return to make mark

Souness's gamble gains reward

Liverpool 1
Aston Villa 0

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A DESPERATE gamble paid off for Graeme Souness yesterday. For the first time this season, he picked a side that resembled the strongest available for Liverpool — and he was rewarded with a one-goal win that established them as the clear favourites to lift the FA Cup on May 9.

The goal that preserved Liverpool's realistic pursuit of honours was, appropriately, fashioned by all three of the comeback men who represented Souness's game of chance against Aston Villa.

John Barnes and Ronnie Whelan, who created it, had in particular been out for so long that they were playing largely from memory.

Michael Thomas had also been absent for five weeks but, on the same ground where he clinched the League championship for Arsenal three years ago, he applied the finishing touch.

It earned them a semi-final against Portsmouth, the second division survivors, on April 5.

"We knew we had to be at our best today," the Liverpool manager said, "and we showed signs of that in the second half. We've had lots of problems and that is the first time we've fielded anything like our full team and I've always said we should be judged then."

The stability of Whelan, which had been hidden for six months, the individual brilliance of Barnes, glimpsed only briefly, and the runs of Thomas have been missed by Liverpool.

In one moment, midway through the second half, the combination unhinged Villa and won the quarter-final at Anfield.

Whelan, restored to his role in front of the back four, gained possession and relayed it to Barnes. Crucially, he had been moved in from the flank, where he had been too isolated before the interval, although he admitted later that fatigue had by then begun to set in.

His intentions might, he said, have otherwise been more introspective. "Normally, I might have gone for a dribble but my legs felt tired."

so I just played the ball." In spite of the apparent weariness, the precision and timing of his pass for the galloping Thomas was perfect. In steering his shot around the stranded Spink, Thomas claimed his second goal for his new club and the first at Anfield since the momentous evening in 1989.

It denied Villa, who would have claimed an equaliser and their own piece of history but for the instinctive reactions of Grobbelaar.

Although Villa have won the trophy seven times, they have not reached the last four for 32 years. To break the sequence, their forwards had to be as efficient as in the previous away victories over Tottenham Hotspur, the holders, Derby County and Swindon Town. In brief, they were not.

The aim of Richardson was wayward early on and Atkinson, another to re-emerge from a winter's hibernation, allowed Grobbelaar to spoil a potentially spectacular individual effort.

After Venison had completed a couple of hurried clearances, the Liverpool goalkeeper protected their lead with a stunning save from Parker's firm drive.

Villa's front line, almost wholly unproductive in the League (they have scored only twice in nine fixtures), was smothered by Nicol, Wright and, especially, by the gifted Jones. Switched to left back, the new England defender countered the speed of Daley, a dangerous threat which amounted to nothing.

Liverpool showed five changes from the inexperienced team that probably yielded their UEFA Cup place in Genoa last week. In spite of a header by Barnes and an inspired attempt by Saunders, they were initially not as effective as a unit but their cohesion grew and so did their belief.

It promises to increase with the restoration of the one remaining missing piece, Rush, who could be back within a fortnight. The skeleton of the new stand, which towers above one side of the ground is not the only sign of bigger and better things to come, albeit belatedly, at Anfield.

Honest Cambridge, page 23
Forest flooded, page 24
Results and tables, page 24



Time to celebrate: Thomas revels in his goal, to the delight of Saunders, his Liverpool team-mate

Liverpool drawn to meet Portsmouth

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LIVERPOOL were made odds-on favourites to win the FA Cup after the semi-final draw yesterday paired them with Portsmouth, the second division team that surprisingly beat Nottingham Forest. William Hill had Liverpool at 5-4 on, with Chelsea at 4-1, Norwich 7-1, Portsmouth 8-1, Southampton 12-1, and Sunderland 25-1.

Colin Clarke, the veteran Portsmouth forward who played a vital role in his side's 1-0 defeat of Forest, said: "The prospect of facing Liverpool in an FA Cup semi-final is very exciting."

"In a one-off game in this competition of course we have got to fancy our chances. I've seen Liverpool on television in most of their games this season and they look as good as ever in patches. They've been beaten by a lower-division side

like Peterborough, so you can't write us off."

"The Forest game was daunting enough for our young players so I don't think we'll have anything more to fear. Semi-finals tend not to be quite as good a game of football but that's because neither side wants to throw away the chance of getting to Wembley."

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager who never won an FA Cup winners' medal as a Liverpool player, said: "We fancy our chances against anyone on a neutral ground. I have always maintained we should only be judged when we have our strongest side out and the team that beat Villa was the first time I have fielded anything like our strongest side."

DRAMA Liverpool v Portsmouth: Chelsea of Sunderland v Southampton or Norwich City. Time to be played on Sunday, April 5.

At Anfield.	Att: 29,109.	Ref: P Don
HT: 0-0	LIVERPOOL 1	ASTON VILLA 0
Scorers:	Thomas 66	Blake 29, McGrath 65
Bookings:	Venison 52	Kutnicki 45 (Blake)
Subs:	Rosenfield 78 (McManaman), Molloy 85 (Thomas)	Kutnicki 45 (Blake), Froggett 73 (Yorke)

	LIVERPOOL	ASTON VILLA
Shots (on target/total)	2/11	3/7
Goals (left/right)	1/2	4/4
Crosses (left/right)	9/17	24/17
Free kicks/pens against	14/5	22/3
Offsides	24	53
Possession (gained/lost)	26/59	27/54

	LIVERPOOL (4-4-2)	ASTON VILLA (4-4-2)
Goalkeepers	G Grobbelaar	M Blake
Defenders	R Jones, S Nicol, D Whelan, M Wright	S Blewett, S Tople, P McManaman, R Richardson
Midfielders	D Beattie, R Houston, M Thomas, J Barnes	A Daley, R Parker, R Sproat, D Atkinson
Forwards	R Rosenfield, J Molloy	D Yorke, R Kutnicki, S Froggett

THIS FA Cup spectacle was illustrated by numerous petty feuds, 37 in total, awarded by the referee and light marking on both sides of forwards. Several wide men failed to fire. McManaman had only two crosses for the home side while Yorke and Daley managed just two between them — the substitution of Yorke by Froggett immediately yielded five crosses by the youngster and forced four corners.

Compiled by Julian Deeborough

Police arrest 51 in Portsmouth

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HAMPSHIRE police said yesterday that 51 Portsmouth supporters had been arrested after their team's 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Of the arrests, 25 were made in and around the ground. Later, extra police were called in as pubs and bars in the city overflowed as thousands of supporters took to the streets.

A police spokesman said: "There were a very large number of people celebrating

after the game and a further 26 were arrested at various locations. We were called to deal with 60 related public order offences in Portsmouth and Southsea and a total of 50 extra officers had to be used to cope with the number of people."

Denis Smith is expected to be named as the new manager of Bristol City today. Dismissed by Sunderland at Christmas, Smith, who was interviewed for the vacancy by Leslie Kew, the City chairman, late last week travelled to the West Country from his

home in County Durham. He stayed in a Bristol hotel last night, finalising details with Kew before waiting to be formally introduced at a press conference.

It is understood that Smith would like to take Malcolm Crosby, now the caretaker manager at Sunderland, but formerly his reserve team coach at Roker Park, to Ashton Gate with him. Nothing will happen while Sunderland remain in the FA Cup — they play at Chelsea in the sixth round tonight — but should they go out, Bob Mur-

ray, the chairman, would be unlikely to stand in Crosby's way.

Smith, aged 44, who played at centre half for Stoke City before managing York City and Sunderland, revived the latter's fortunes in the aftermath of Laurie McMenemy's spell in charge at Roker Park.

Now he faces the challenge of keeping City, who dismissed Jimmy Lumsden a fortnight ago, and last week turned down a job application from Osvaldo Ardiles, in the second division.

Cooke to lead England up to World Cup

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GEOFF Cooke, team manager of the most successful England rugby union team for nearly 70 years, will be confirmed today in his honorary position for the next four years. In the wake of the team's second successive grand slam, he will take England up to the 1995 World Cup.

The Rugby Football Union's committee met on Friday and ratified the recommendation from its own coaching committee that Cooke, team manager since the autumn of 1987, should continue in the post. I understand that, as distinct from the past five years, Cooke's position will not be reviewed at the end of each season, but will cover the full cycle up to the next World Cup.

Before Saturday's defeat of Wales at Twickenham, which earned England their tenth grand slam and their twentieth outright five nations championship, Cooke, aged 50, had expressed a willingness to carry on until 1995. He is chief executive of the British Institute of Sports Coaches and, though a Cumbrian, has spent most of his working life in Yorkshire. However, there was opposition to him continuing, based partly on memories of the incident in Cardiff last year when the England management failed to attend a post-match press conference.

It remains to be seen how many members of the England squad will continue playing at international level. Cooke admitted that he expected Peter Winterbottom and Wade Dooley to join Rory Underwood and Simon Halliday in retirement. "You get to the end of a particular phase and we have had a lot of non-stop international rugby," he said.

This summer players will

have the chance of a break and to reflect on things. When September comes round and they see other people starting to play again, and get the whiff of embrocation, who knows what they might do. If they choose to make themselves available, they will be considered.

"But I don't think it's of benefit to English rugby to go round persuading people to stay on: we will let things take their course. The players make their own decisions. They have reached that time in their lives when they know what their other commitments are."

Mickey Skinner is expected to return from Harlequins to second-division Blackheath, but the prospect of playing against South Africa at Twickenham in November may act as a lure. Jeff Probyn, at 36 the oldest man in the squad, will make himself available, and there is no obvious challenger at tight-head prop.

Wales, who have one more international to play (against Scotland on March 21), have yet to decide on their long-term management structure but Alan Davies, their coach, has told them he is prepared to stay on until, and possibly beyond, the 1995 World Cup.

"We are still in a building stage," Davies said after his team's 24-0 defeat at Twickenham. "If we expect to turn that round in three games, we can't say there was a problem in the first place. There clearly is and it's being addressed. There is enough playing talent [in Wales] to win triple crowns and grand slams. Hopefully, we can mirror the best team in the hemisphere [England], particularly of the field, which you must do in modern sport."

Match report, page 22

Nebiolo picked by Samaranch

FROM DAVID MILLER IN LAUSANNE

PRIMO Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), became the first of Juan Antonio Samaranch's nominated members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday.

He immediately set about attempting to assist in the resolution of political controversies concerning the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Samaranch's choice of Nebiolo as the first of his two discretionary nominations — granted as a change in the charter during the Winter Games — came as no surprise. Interest will centre on his second nomination.

Equally predictably, the IAAF, at its meeting here on Saturday, set about defusing South African unrest within athletics.

Following the recent visit to South Africa by Lamine Diack, IAAF vice-president, the Unity Games, postponed from last autumn, have been rescheduled for Dakar, Senegal, on April 18, and South Africa on April 24 and 25.

President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela have accepted invitations.

Entries will be confined to African athletes and the in-

tervention is to grant South Africa provisional membership of the IAAF at the council meeting in Toronto in May.

The IAAF has accepted there is substantial majority amalgamation on the unified South African Athletics Association, between black and white, and that if the coloured athletics board fails to co-ordinate its activities before May, it will be disregarded.

It was also agreed at meetings between the IAAF and the IOC that they would support the policy of a unified team of former Soviet republics for Barcelona — as in the Albertville Winter Games — but that any independent republics who declined to collaborate would be left out.

The Russian republic delegation arrived here yesterday having resolved its controversy of two national Olympic committees (NOCs).

At a meeting on Friday, Vladimir Vasin, leader of the body which had already applied for IOC recognition, resigned in favour of the establishment of the former Soviet NOC.

Vitaly Smirnov, the IOC vice-president, was elected president of the new Russian NOC, with Vasin as first vice-president.

Rugby triumph no pushover to Botham Factor

ENGLAND victories are coming at us thick and fast. With the midweek cricket victory over Australia, we celebrated one man. The grand slam rugby union success was quite a different matter. It was a victory quite devoid of the Botham Factor.

The Botham Factor is the most satisfying story in sport: how one individual seizes an occasion by the scruff of the neck and makes it — the occasion and the victory both — unquestionably his own.

Botham has done this when sneaking and when plundering his victories. In 1981, he scored that 149 at Headingley for the greatest underdog win in history; in 1985, he hit the main strike

bowler for a first-ball six to rub in the fact that England had won the Ashes by a mile and half.

Where, then, was the Botham Factor as the England rugby team completed the stunning achievement of back-to-back grand slams? Look, and you look in vain. It was not that kind of day. It is not that kind of team.

Who was England's dominant individual? There was none. That has been England's strength: perhaps, ultimately, their weakness, too. There were a lot of fine performances: 15 of them, 16 counting Heslop, the replacement.

Carling had a truly excellent game: Webb broke his record; Dooley had his try. But nobody will call this Carling's Game, or Dooley's Game. Of all team games, rugby is one of the least amenable to the Botham Factor.

Its emphasis is always on group achievement. Still, Campese, the nonpareil Australian, shows it can be done.

If England have such a nonpareil, it is probably Guscott — but we are still waiting for him to show us. Underwood has been a jewel, a finisher in the "Linker" mould. But every line of Underwood's body says that he finishes what the team begins. Great player, no Botham Factor.

You cannot go grandstand-

ing without it, and England badly wanted to go grandstanding on Saturday. The trouble is, their best is shown in bitter struggle, and the Welsh were not good enough.



Guscott: leader

to provide one. The remaining option is showboating, and England lack the temperament for it.

The backs never strung passes together, over-eager to put on a show. The forwards never need an excuse to immerse themselves in the profitless struggles of rugby union's game-within-a-game: they, too, wanted a bravura performance, to perform some miracle-like pushover try from the 22, perhaps their own 22. They didn't.

So England won without style: but that is really as it should be. Style has never been their style. The team is about effectiveness. This is a classic example of a team in which the sum is greater than the parts. It is the very

reverse of a team based on the Botham Factor.

This is, and by a distance, the best rugby team in the northern hemisphere. The blotch on the record is, of course, the World Cup final. A game too far. It was a day when all-round excellence was not enough. England did not have a man who seized his moment and his destiny. There was no Botham, not on the England side anyway.

Still, let us not permit this truth to obscure a magnificent achievement. There may not be a single superstar to revel in, but there are 15 or 16 run-of-mill heroes. And that is worth 15 or 16 cheers.

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School inspectors: who will appoint them?

LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY MARCH 9 1992



ARTS
Daniel Massey on his part in the new star-studded Shaw

Has Lamont got what women want?

Women may well decide the outcome of the general election — but what do they really expect from government? On the eve of the Budget, George Hill discovers millions of still undecided voters

Half of those eligible to vote are still waiting to be convinced that any of the political parties has anything special to offer them. They are Britain's women voters, 52 per cent of the electorate, and among the people from whom Norman Lamont has most to hope and most to fear in their response to his pre-election Budget tomorrow.

A new survey of political attitudes among women of voting age shows that more than a quarter of the respondents are still either "don't know" or self-confessed waverers in their allegiance. If this sample is taken as representative of women voters as a whole, four million potential voters are still undecided. Among waverers in the survey, especially Conservative waverers (those who lean towards a Conservative vote but are not "very" or "at all" certain that they will vote that way), a majority say that they expect the Budget to influence their voting decisions. The proportion of "don't know" lurking in the electorate as a whole is usually estimated as only about 16 per cent. Here is an audience of millions waiting to be convinced tomorrow.

They will be no pushover for either side. The survey, carried out last month by the FDS Market Research Group, shows that although there is no uniform "women's vote", women have clear preferences about the policies needed to win their support. They are less interested in the allure of tax cuts than they are in increased public investment, and in the raising of benefits (especially pensions and support for those caring for elderly relatives at home — a cause supported by nine out of ten). More than one in five — mothers in particular — would like more and better opportunities to take up paid work, and more than half are inclined to favour Labour's policy of a minimum wage.

In outline, the policy factors that women see as important, and their views about them, appear to be not far removed from those of voters in general. The very high value they set on public provision for health and education may exceed that of male voters. Almost certainly, and understandably, they have a sharper awareness than men of the problems facing those caring for children and the elderly and women who want to go out to work.

None of the political parties has succeeded in establishing itself in women's eyes as a "party for women". But none of them has incurred the stigma of being

widely seen as a party that disregards their interests. Only 11 per cent see any party as standing for policies which are especially good for women, and only 9 per cent see any of the parties as especially bad. Even among committed supporters of one party, only a minority are dedicated enough to claim that their own party's policies are "especially good for women".

Among the handful who do see a difference, more see Labour as the answer to women's prayers than the other main parties (7 per cent of the total named Labour, 3 per cent the Tories, and 2 per cent the Liberal Democrats). A relatively high proportion of those who see a difference between the parties

None of the political parties has succeeded in establishing itself in women's eyes as a 'party for women'

(most preferring Labour) are single parents, parents with children aged under five, and young voters.

Only one in four women wants the Budget to lower taxes, a finding that reinforces voices in the government which have warned that tax cuts in a recession might be seen as pre-election bribery. The poll's findings are consistent on this point with the findings of other polls which have questioned voters of both sexes. Women who say that they are Conservative waverers are more in favour of tax cuts than the average, but even among them the proportion in favour, 41 per cent, is less than half.

Surprisingly, perhaps, tax cuts appeal most not to the well-off but to the unemployed, unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and to the young. This may be because they are the ones who feel most in need of more disposable income.

Mr Lamont's tax-cutting option is further complicated by the fact that income tax — the tax most often mentioned in this context — comes only third on women's list of the taxes they want to see cut. A further poll tax softener is preferred by 47 per cent. VAT by 32 per cent, and income tax by only 17 per cent. Labour and Conservative waverers, both groups that Mr Lamont will want to woo, are both

especially in favour of concentrating any cuts on the poll tax. However, the evidence on taxation is ambivalent. Even though income tax cuts are not a high priority, twice as many women would welcome a 1p cut than would oppose it, and many more would disapprove than approve of a 1p increase. This suggests that if an income tax cut was made in the Budget, there might be little enthusiasm about a Labour commitment to put it up again afterwards if it won the election.

If there is revenue to spare, three out of four women would prefer to see it devoted to investment in public services rather than tax cuts. This group gives top priority to the health service, preferred by 81 per cent, and schools, mentioned by 51 per cent. (No fewer than 93 per cent of Tory waverers favoured more spending on health.) But fewer than a fifth of the total gave a high priority to public transport. "These responses are rather different from what one might expect to find of voters in general," says Ivor Crewe, professor of government at Essex University. "That may be so in particular with the high importance given to schools, and the relatively low importance given to transport."

Not surprisingly, mothers with children at school or soon to start at school were most likely to mention investment in education. But even among them the health service had a still higher priority. The minority wanting more money put into public transport was concentrated among the elderly (who rely on it more than others), the middle classes and in the south — groups which include many commuters.

Subsidies for public transport are one thing, taxes on private transport very much another. Seven out of ten would oppose higher road tax or petrol tax. After higher spending on public services, women would most like to see any spare state revenues devoted to raising benefits, rather than to tax cuts. Half of all women want benefits to rise, and among them the overwhelming priority is given to raising pensions. Government spokesmen, who have been proclaiming for a dozen years that state benefits should be precisely targeted at those in need, appear to have spoken in vain. The old age pension, which is paid equally to rich and poor, remains sacred.

Even mothers with children at home unselfishly yield precedence to the pensioners. In spite of this, they regard child benefit as very important, not surprisingly, and so do other women. It is men-



BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR WOMEN

- Increased tax relief for those looking after elderly dependants at home (92 per cent)
- More money invested in the health service (81 per cent)
- Tax relief on the costs of child care (77 per cent)
- Tax relief on costs of adult education and retraining (76 per cent)
- Part-time jobs (75 per cent of those working part-time wish to continue doing so)
- More jobs in the locality (73 per cent of those looking for a job or for longer hours would like to work locally)
- Additional tax allowance for working women with children (73 per cent)
- Increased tax on cigarettes (68 per cent)

- Raised pensions (61 per cent)
- Cut in income tax by 1p in £ (57 per cent)
- Nursery education provided by local authorities, even at the cost of higher poll tax (56 per cent)
- National minimum wage of £3.60 per hour, even if this made nursery education more expensive to parents (57 per cent)
- Raised level of income at which tax is paid (54 per cent of those looking for a job or longer hours)
- Substantial increase in child benefit (53 per cent)
- More money invested in schools (51 per cent)
- Increased tax on beer, wine and spirits (49 per cent)
- Decreased poll tax (47 per cent)

tioned by 20 per cent of all women, and just over half the total would like a substantial increase in child benefit, even if it meant a 1p rise in income tax.

A variety of tax relief measures especially aimed at women receive widespread support. They include relief on the cost of child care, the cost of adult education and retraining, and on the costs of a special new tax allowance for working women with children. A clear majority also support a national minimum wage and affordable nursery education for two to five-year-olds, even at the cost of raised taxes.

But the measure which receives almost universal support is tax

relief for those looking after elderly dependants at home. Even younger voters, most of whom must be unlikely to face that prospect for years to come, still support the proposal strongly.

More than a fifth of all women, especially young mothers and middle-aged women with children at secondary school, want more and better opportunities to take paid work. This desire to go out to work, and the reasons why it is so often frustrated, are something that any government would do well to take account of. Only one in eight of these women said that she was frustrated in this wish by the opposition of a husband or partner, a factor which would no doubt

have loomed larger in the past. Just over a third cited a lack of child-care facilities. Nearly half (46 per cent) gave as a reason their belief that "too much of what I would earn would go in tax, fares and the costs of childcare".

But the reason mentioned most often, by 54 per cent of this group, was a lack of "suitable jobs available in the local area". This reply, like many others in the survey, is a reminder of the extent to which women today, over and above the preoccupations which tend to affect them in particular, are also conscious sharers in the fortunes of all members of a labour market in recession.

● FDS interviewed a national sample

of 1,022 women of voting age by telephone between February 13 and 18. The data were weighted by social class, tenure of home and car ownership. Its report, *Budget and Tax: women's views*, is available from FDS, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NA, price £25.

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TOMORROW
The golden age of television

Hard at work, off and on

WORKING LIFE: Libby Purves on going home 'early'

My first job was in a British merchant bank in Hamburg. I typed bills of lading in German: sometimes to this day my fingers tingle on a life of their own and flicker out at lightning speed the words *Cie GmbH* or *Aktiengesellschaft* in the middle of a harmless article. Meanwhile I find my back straightening and my feet clicking together under the table, as if I were once more under the eye of Frau Seier and Frau Haas.

They ran a tight ship, those ladies: it was understood that one arrived at five to nine — not nine o'clock; one went out for lunch sharp at one, whether one felt like it or not; wiping the Sauerkraut from one's lips one returned at 1.55 and remained static until five. One did not go swanning off to lean on the photocopier, nor spend more than three minutes in the Ladies: one worked. If there were no bills of lading one sat demurely waiting for more, or took instruction in the German language from Frau Seier. She liked

to give me a proverb a day to memorise: *Ohne Fleiss, kein Preis* (without labour is no reward) was a favourite. So was *Morgen, morgen, nur nicht heute sagen alle faulen Leute*, which translates as, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, not today, is what the lazy people say". You will understand my awed nostalgia for these days when I tell you that Frau S. was only 20, two years older than me. And this was in 1968, when the London office scene meant feckless dollybirds with hangovers: when I stayed with a schoolfriend who was tempting off Piccadilly, I nearly fainted with shock at the reckless informality of her office. Since then I have never made the mistake of thinking that the Germans got rich by accident.

But the great thing about that office was that when five o'clock came, it emptied. All the men, who

had removed their jackets to reveal a dismal vista of string vests worn under transparent white nylon shirts, put them back on and vamoosed. We girls switched out the desk-lamps and followed, exchanging the odd proverb ("All that glitters is not gold, *Fräulein Purves!* *Gute nacht!*" "*Schön! dank, Frau Seier!* Without labour is no reward!"). Idyllic, really.

Because at least one knew where one stood. One had served one's hours. Since then my destiny has lain in more unstructured workplaces. People drift in between nirie and whenever, eat sandwiches while on the phone one day and vanish to John Lewis for three hours the next; they are still riffling through filing-cabinets when the cleaners turn up at six. Some have



keys, and go out to the pub for two hours before returning to "clear up a few little jobs" at their desks and spill a can of diet soda into the word-processor.

The next morning someone else will beat the rush-hour by turning up at 7.30, and absent-mindedly

swig the flat dregs of the Diet Coke before discovering there is a fag-end in it. Someone else is working from home, or engaged in some baroque jobshare which involves either both parties turning up and getting in one another's way, or else vanishing in a joint flurry of faxes. Increasingly, one rings people in their offices to be told, "I'm not sure whether she's due in this morning". Frau Seier wouldn't like it. *GmbH. Aktiengesellschaft*. Sorry.

I actually rather approve of flexible hours, being a disciple of the business guru Charles Handy, who says that it is degrading to buy people's time rather than their achievement. But human nature tends towards one-upmanship, and flexible working is a perfect

lever for making one's fellow-man uncomfortable. Plant a bugged briefcase in any workplace and before long you will hear the words, "Off home early, then?" followed by a mumbled, "Yah — well — I've put in a lot of office lunches and Saturdays lately."

You may imagine the scornful curl of the lip with which the saintly figure at the desk greets this. Even though it might be perfectly true, and even though the assailant may be on fixed hours and be the kind of paranoid clock-watcher who won't pick up a phone at 1.59 if his lunchbreak lasts till two. Despite all this, the barb sticks.

In offices which open every day — such as newspapers — some men who wish to signal that they are working outside their allocated hours go to the desperate lengths of appearing in the office in a fluffy

pullover instead of a jacket at the weekend. They might as well have someone knit the words "My day off" on to the chest and have done with it.

But if some flexible workers do suffer from the "Off home early then?" form of harassment, possibly they should examine their consciences. Have they never done the opposite? Floated past a preoccupied colleague at 5.30 and said, "You work too hard. There are other things in life, you know?" This — with its subtlety implying that one has no friends or invitations, and ends the day watching *Blind Date* in a lonely little flat — is possibly the world's most annoying remark. Especially when what you are finishing is, come to think of it, supposed to be their job.

By the time you whirl your chair round to say so, however, the swine will have vanished, leaving only a whiff of Eau Sauvage. I suppose you could always stick your head out of the window and shout "OFF HOME EARLY, THEN?". But he might not hear.

Okri, Bogarde and Weldon tell tales.

Listen to Ben Okri (19 March), Dirk Bogarde (20 March) and Fay Weldon (7 April) talk about their work, their new projects and all manner of other things. Tickets £3.50; details on 071-928 2252. All these Platform events start at 6pm.

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ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The talented young violinist Stephanie Conley conducts and performs in a programme comprising Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Nos 4 and 5, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Poulton, Willem, Bennett and Kato Hill, and harpsichordist Ian Watson are also featured soloists. Barbican Hall, St. John's, London EC2 (071-638 9801), 7.45pm.

BODY AND SOUL: A topical new drama by Roy Kinnear exploring the moral, legal and ethical questions raised by the Church of England on the ordination of women. Starring Robert Hardy and Angela Thorne. Royal Albert Hall, London WC2 (071-638 9801), 7.45pm.

BRUCE MARDEN - PRINTS: Emerging in New York in the 1950s, Marden was more or less obliged to be an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But he soon moved to a more serene, lyrical style, which was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture. More recently his work has returned to the loose, calligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints and paintings collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until June 21.

THE BROTHERS ROBINSON: Not only William Heath, but also his older brother Thomas Heath and Charles, were notable book illustrators. Though Heath Robinson (L.A. Williams) entered the profession as a cartoonist, his graphic and caricatured machinery he was also an exquisite draughtsman.

LA BÊTE: Breuils performance by Anne Cummings in a strange modern parody: soprano, alto, mezzo, baritone, bass, tenor, and bass. Lyric, Hennessy, London, WI (071-741 2311), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 14.50pm. Final week.

CASIAN AND CLEOPATRA: Also known as Cleopatra, a modern take on a disappointing film version of Shakespeare's anti-romantic drama. Greenwich, Crown's Hill, SE10 (081-881 7755), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Mat, 2.30pm, 13.50pm.

THE DOTTED CLIMAX: An impression of the Harlem nightspot high on energy, low on story. Features: Althea, The Althea, WC2 (071-838 6404), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASHA: Brian Friel's Oscar Award-winning memory play, set in 1910s Donegal. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: John Stevenson, Michael Byrne, and Peter Simon in a production of Shakespeare's political drama. Best play of 1991. Drama, York's St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-536 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the funniest of a woman married to a serious one. Dances, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: With and without the story of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock and roll. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebration of Phil Spector's music. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

A HARD HEART: Archival film. A woman's story of love and loss. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONICA: Krzysztof Kieslowski's brilliant film about a woman who seems to have a life with two faces. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

AFRAID OF THE DARK (18): Mark Peploe's clever but dispiriting psychological thriller about fear and darkness. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

BARTON FINK (18): The Coen brothers' marvellous comedy about a writer in 1940s Hollywood. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

BLACK ROSE (18): Seventeenth-century French (Louis XIV) rises to convert Ireland in northern Quebec. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

CROSS MY HEART (15): A witty, visually rich French film of children competing for a mother's love. Features: The Royal Court, St. John's, WC2 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 15.00pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

and a charming author for children. An unusual pleasure to meet them as family. Come, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (071-638 7551), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, until March 20.

SPRINGS LOADED: The annual celebration of new dance continues with experimental group Nightshift. Dance Theatre Company in Unit 10 West End. Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, until March 20.

ON APPROVAL: Penelope Keith in a revival of Lonsdale's drawing room comedy, starring alongside Edward de Souza, Jerry Clifton and Michael Cochrane, under director David Giles. The production moves to Broadway's Albany Theatre next week. Theatre Royal, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0532 462626), 7.30pm.

OPERA 80: The company moves to London this week performing its new staging of Mozart's Don Giovanni, directed by Stephen Medcalf, designed by Lex Botterweck and conducted by Lex Botterweck.

LA BÊTE: Breuils performance by Anne Cummings in a strange modern parody: soprano, alto, mezzo, baritone, bass, tenor, and bass. Lyric, Hennessy, London, WI (071-741 2311), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 14.50pm. Final week.

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Anne Manson. Giovanni is elegantly sung by David Ellis, and the supporting cast includes Fiona Cameron, Julie McKelvey, Jonathan Venn and Lisa Tyrall. Opera Venetia's production of the British opera Albert Herring is also in the touring repertoire. Towngate Theatre, Peterborough, Northants (0208 523232), 7.30pm.

THE MISER: Tom Courtenay brings his brand of dead-pan comedy to Mollere's play, in this good-humoured production by Graham Murray, with a new translation by Robert Ogden. A strong cast includes Polly James. The play moves to Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham next week. Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond (081-840 0089), 7.45pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The company visits Preston performing A Stranger in Paradise, the recently acquired ballet by choreographer Robert North, together with Christopher Bruce's highly acclaimed Swanmore, and the company's fresh staging of Swanmore. The Swanmore, Lancaster Road, Preston (0772 58858), 7.30pm.

LES LIABONS DANGEREUX: The Royal Shakespeare Company in a touring production of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the Laclos novel set in pre-revolutionary France. Stephen Dobbin directs, supported by a 19th-century cast. The Swanmore, Lancaster Road, Preston (0772 58858), 7.30pm.

ON APPROVAL: Penelope Keith in a revival of Lonsdale's drawing room comedy, starring alongside Edward de Souza, Jerry Clifton and Michael Cochrane, under director David Giles. The production moves to Broadway's Albany Theatre next week. Theatre Royal, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0532 462626), 7.30pm.

OPERA 80: The company moves to London this week performing its new staging of Mozart's Don Giovanni, directed by Stephen Medcalf, designed by Lex Botterweck and conducted by Lex Botterweck.

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TELEVISION

Frog life in the publishing pond

FOR many of those who read English at Cambridge in the 1950s or 1960s, like Simon Gray and myself, the very phrase "common pursuit" has a reproachful ring. Didn't it give a title to one of the late F.R. Leavis's most important books? And didn't Leavis himself stand for an asstringency of perception and a moral rigour hard to sustain in the literary London that the embattled old critic so despised? I know one-time disciples who feel they have faltered in "the common pursuit of true judgement" and still cannot forgive themselves for betraying the master.

Gray's play, *Common Pursuit*, was reassuring in a way, sardonic sort of way. It acknowledged the difficulty of upholding Leavis-like standards in a world regrettably populated by real people who had real weaknesses and were subject to real financial pressures. The play struck some as worthy when it was first performed on the stage eight years ago. There could be no such quarrel with Gray's television version (broadcast last night), which was high-class without being high-falootin': crisp, funny, sensitive, and more gripping than a tale about frog life in the publishing puddle had any right to be.

The play, begun with one of those getting-to-know-you scenes that always brings out Gray's sly enjoyment of human incongruities. A prim moral philosopher (Stephen Fry), an insecure young American (Andrew McCarthy), a historicist would-be

Common Pursuit

BBC 2

theatre critic (Tim Roth), and an aspiring academic and full-time philosopher (James Fleet) were all assembled in the undergraduate rooms of Stuart (Kevin McNally), editor-to-be of a literary magazine called *The Common Pursuit*, and for one was hooked. What were the personal agendas of these young nicks, so warily circling each other? What kind of tangled knots would they weave?

Jump seven years, and then a few more: and much ravelling and unravelling had duly occurred. Fleet was financing his wife, children and serial mistresses by writing coffee-table books. Roth was muddling his way up the television ladder, and the fastidious Fry had fallen victim to his paradoxical taste for rough trade. Moreover, after years of struggle, the magazine itself had gone the way of most elitist efforts. McCarthy, now a small-time publishing tycoon, was the possessor not just of McNally's skills but of his long-term lover (Stella Gonet).

The play could easily have dwindled into a formulaic lament for lost ideals. But Christopher Morahan's direction was too shrewd, his cast too strong, the writing too emotionally alive to allow anything of the sort. I do not know if Gray has read the short story in which a doting but impoverished

used the walls and ceiling of the theatre, and a final chorus with many of the singers spread among the audience. The dream-like atmosphere of Bunyan's book dominated everything; the sentimentality was confronted in a way that made it seem inevitable and right.

Step forward, Igor Kennaway, a conductor widely experienced in Germany but never before heard in a British opera house. He milked the tensions of the music and deftly handled its flow, so that one felt astonished that this glorious design should be neglected by our major opera houses. The orchestral playing was so skilled that one forgot these were students.

In the title role Richard Whitehouse gave a marvellously convincing performance: a touch of awkwardness and a simplicity of manner combined with impeccable diction and a pleasing light baritone made him seem the only possible performer for the role. Among the other fine singers, mention should be made of Thomas Jackson who produced quite the best and most secure triple singing that I have heard on the operatic stage.

But most of all, this was a performance that massively vindicated a neglected work, one that should be seen far more widely than just in Manchester. If in some ways the opera is a strange cross between *Parsifal* and *The Dream of Gerontius*, it is also thoroughly individual: it fits into no simple category. That is obviously its problem; but it is also its unique strength.

DAVID FALLOWS



Stephen Fry, playing a fastidious philosopher with rough tastes

husband sells his watch to give combs to his wife, who has sold her hair to give him a watch-boat. But the end of McNally and Gonet's affair had rather the same quality. She had an abortion to help keep the magazine going; he gave up the magazine to allow them both to have children; and the result was disaster.

But then Gray's gods have always

been ironists. The more impeccable the emotional logic of the process, the more amusement they take in waylaying and destroying people. That may not be comfortable to watch, but it makes for highly distinctive drama, and seldom more so than in *Common Pursuit*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Opera

Sixties revivalists

A Midsummer Night's Dream GSDM

BRITTEN'S *A Midsummer Night's Dream* may not be the most obvious opera for a student venture such as that regularly mounted by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. *Albert Herring*, with its down-to-earth comedy and parody-laced score, would have been a more predictable choice for a music school, if less of a challenge.

The difficulty of the *Dream* is that it is essentially an evocation of an enchanted world. That illusion is created by a range of effects, such as the translucent chamber scoring, an unearthly counterpoint voice for the King of the Fairies, and a precisely calculated harmonic language often deriving magical results from sequences of common chords.

Robin Tubbott, evidently decided that such an airy-fairy world was not for his production. Instead, he located the action in the surreal world of the Sixties, the decade of the work's composition, as it happens, though that did not seem to be relevant. The idea appeared to be that of a retreat into a fantasy land beyond the reach of the everyday world, a sphere where harsh, modern realities could be exchanged for sensuous, mystical experience.

DAVID FALLOWS

Who would valiant be

The Pilgrim's Progress RNCM, Manchester

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS spent more than 30 years working on *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and it could be seen as the key work in his life. But since the first production it has never been professionally staged, for obvious reasons. It needs an enormous cast with essentially just one substantial role, that of the Pilgrim, who hardly ever leaves the stage; it has none of the traditional glories of an opera, since Bunyan's story has no love interest and little conventional dramatic tension; the music flows in a kind of tapestry that shows few big changes of mood; and most of all its nature as a "moral" needs the most sensitive production if it is not to become cloying.

Step forward Joseph Ward, who sang in that infamous first production of 1951 and is now one of the few opera directors who can be counted on to be thoroughly attuned to the music, while at the same time having a clear sense of what works on stage. Brilliantly aided by the designs of Michael Holt and the lighting of Kevin Sleep he mounted a production that positively glowed with love for the music.

He made magical use of the whole opera theatre of the Royal Northern College of Music: a stage that surrounded the orchestra, lighting that

DAVID FALLOWS

No time for tampering

Manon Lescaut La Scala, Milan

MANY Italian opera-lovers regard Jonathan Miller as a dangerous desecrator, after his updated Tosca in Florence and the rumours that circulated about his *Rigoletto* in London. But their disappointment seems greater than their relief that his new *Manon Lescaut*, for La Scala has turned out to be so utterly tame. The only moment that betrays the presence of a tampering hand is when Des Grieux expires before his lover, and

DAVID FALLOWS

has an unfailingly musical lyric soprano with an unsensual, untutored timbre; her words - when audible - are enunciated rather than felt, and her deportment is sedate. In short, she conveys little sense of Manon's wildly fluctuating moods or unhinged emotion.

Peter Dvorsky is good at despair but short on tenderness, since he is either unwilling or unable to sing quietly. Only Gino Quilico strikes the right note in the peripheral role of Lescaut. The conductor Armando Gatto co-ordinates rather than shapes the performance, but the Scala orchestra - as always these days - plays splendidly.

NIGEL JAMIESON

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

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CONCERTS

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The talented young violinist Stephanie Conley conducts and performs in a programme comprising Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Nos 4 and 5, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Poulton, Willem, Bennett and Kato Hill, and harpsichordist Ian Watson are also featured soloists. Barbican Hall, St. John's, London EC2 (071-638 9801), 7.45pm.

BODY AND SOUL: A topical new drama by Roy Kinnear exploring the moral, legal and ethical questions raised by the Church of England on the ordination of women. Starring Robert Hardy and Angela Thorne. Royal Albert Hall, London WC2 (071-638 9801), 7.45pm.

BRUCE MARDEN - PRINTS: Emerging in New York in the 1950s, Marden was more or less obliged to be an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But he soon moved to a more serene, lyrical style, which was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture. More recently his work has returned to the loose, calligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints and paintings collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until June 21.

THE BROTHERS ROBINSON: Not only William Heath, but also his older brother Thomas Heath and Charles, were notable book illustrators. Though Heath Robinson (L.A. Williams) entered the profession as a cartoonist, his graphic and caricatured machinery he was also an exquisite draughtsman.

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THEATRE CHOICE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London theatre

THEATRE

House holds key to Shaw's heart of darkness

Jeremy Kingston talks to Daniel Massey, one of the many stars signed up for Trevor Nunn's new staging of *Heartbreak House*

In recent years the starry occasions in the West End theatre have been the musicals, and more often than not the stars are the composer or the designer. But when the lights go up this Thursday at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, revealing a room designed like the poop of a ship beached upon the Sussex Downs, the audience will see a cast unrivalled for lustre since the days long ago when two or three actor knights and a brace of Dames would appear at this same theatre in plays by the now forgotten N.C. Hunter.

Heartbreak House is by the definitely forgotten Shaw, his finest play, and as befits one of the great dramatic works of the 20th century, Trevor Nunn is directing Paul Scofield as the 88-year-old Captain Shotover, and Vanessa Redgrave, Felicity Kendal, and Daniel Massey as his daughters and son-in-law. Imogen Stubbs, David Calder, Joe Melia and Oliver Ford Davies are also in the company, helping to make up a team superbly equipped to bring out the resonances of the work. Shaw chose to sub-title 'A Fantasia in the Russian Manner on English Themes'.

Nunn rehearsed his cast in the back room of a social club in Chiswick, and at the end of a long day's work this dazzling assembly emerge one by one into the dimly lit bar: Scofield thoughtfully pursing his lips, Redgrave's eyes widening to make out her route past the empty chairs, Nunn hurrying for the telephone. Massey strides forward; we introduce ourselves. His flamboyant moustaches, which someone in the play compares to a bronze candlestick, are already curling up at the required angle. Kendal walks slowly past, rubbing her ear.

Massey is happy to talk about his long acting career, stretching back to the mid-1950s, but far readier to talk of this production.

His face lights up. The emphasis he places on crucial words makes them stand out like a sequence of markers to his enthusiasm — for the play, for Nunn's perceptions of it, for the quality of his fellow actors.

"It's such a personal play, coming as it does out of the first world war and Shaw's feelings about the follies of governments, armaments and people being blown to death. Two of the characters are blown to

'Shaw called the play his King Lear. There's wishful thinking there, but you do hear echoes'

pieces when a plane comes out of nowhere at the end of the last act and drops bombs. There's the influence of Chekhov, of course, though I don't think he really understood Chekhov at that time. I mean, too, at the start of the play. So the coming together of these influences on his own experience and feelings make it a very personal work.

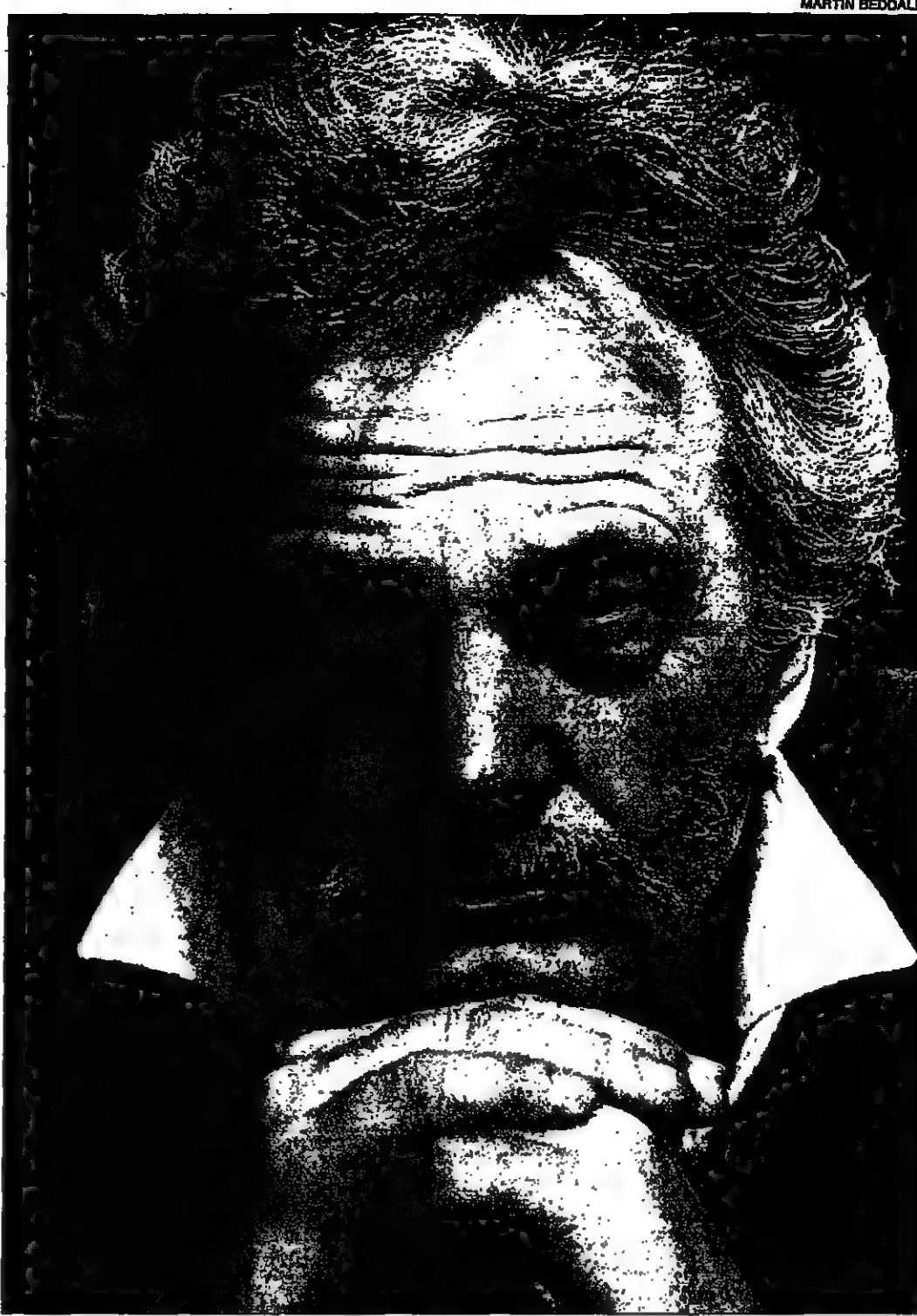
"As well as that, it's almost as if he didn't know what he had written. Not completely. There are huge ambiguities that don't resolve, in the way the didactic, witty Shaw usually resolves his arguments. The whole tone of it is quite different from any other Shaw, and he felt differently about it, letting it only very reluctantly out of his grasp. He finished it during the war, but it wasn't produced for another six years. He was like a child with this play, vulnerable, feeling people would attack it and misunderstand it — which indeed they did. When it was finally done,

people found the tone and the abrupt changes very difficult. I think we seem to be discovering the darker side to the play — I hope this doesn't drown the humour, but Trevor has helped us to find an extraordinary resonance."

Massey plays Hector Hushabye, the desperate fantasist who cannot bear to talk about his actual feats of bravery. "The sad fact about Hector is that he doesn't find living in the real world easy. In another age he could have been a mountain-climber. He needs fantasy. He needs women. That's the other thing, this tremendously Shavian tug-of-war between wanting and resenting. I've formed a phrase: engagement and despair. It's alternate. You despair of living in the world; but the world that is there — the women, principally, that are in it. Hector's wife Hesione [Redgrave], or this trusting little Ellie Dunn [Stubbs], or Ariadne [Kendal] who comes along and he seduces her — all this is an intoxicant that keeps you going when there aren't the opportunities to be brave."

Hesione says of him, "People don't have their virtues and vices in sets; they have them anyhow, all mixed." That's how the play is like a kind of Shakespearean morality. It's like *Measure for Measure* — a moral prism. You think he's something; he isn't. Turn him just a little bit further round: oh, he's that! Or he's affected that way by this? My God!

"And nobody's totally undecidable. Shotover's the most enigmatic of the lot. You don't know whether he sold himself to the Devil in Zanzibar. Everybody says so and you feel there's a truth in this. Shaw later called the play his *King Lear* — this ancient, ancient man and the three women. There's wishful thinking there, but you do hear echoes of this in Paul [Scofield], who is the greatest 'Lear' that I've seen. He has this astonishing vocal range,



Daniel Massey: "So much is apposite today. The ship, the country, heading for the rocks."

In his speech at the end — "The moon grows from a sickle to an arc-lamp" — something wonderful and gorgeous comes out.

"So much in the play is apposite today. The ship, the country, heading for the rocks. There's a speech Hector has in the last act. Boss Mangan [Calder], who by this time is a riven character, crushed by all of us playing party games with him, starts taking his clothes off. Ariadne says, 'Mangan has no money'. And he says,

"Don't run away with this idea that I have nothing" and I say, "Oh, don't explain. We understand. You have a couple of thousand pounds in exchange bills, 50,000 shares worth ten pence a dozen, and half a dozen tabloids" ... and there's a caesura before I go on to say ... of cyanide of potassium to poison yourself with when you are found out." It's Robert Maxwell! In those days they must have used the word 'tabloid' to mean a capsule. Nowadays what does it

mean but the *Daily Mirror*? Massey throws his head back, laughing at the joke, and the photographer comes up to the table to do his stuff. "It may be naughty but it seems to me worth doing. Tabloids — of cyanide of potassium! If someone wants to pick that up, they'll think it's prescience on Shaw's part."

● *Heartbreak House* is in preview from Thursday at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket (077-930 8800). It opens on March 19.

ARTS BRIEF

Prince of strides

CONNOISSEURS of dance, beware. The rock star Prince is to collaborate with the American troupe, the Joffrey Ballet. The diminutive Purple One has been signed up to compose a score for a full-length work, *Billboards*, that will be premiered in Iowa next January. This ballet will feature a composition derived from "Thunder", one of the tunes on the musician's recent album, *Diamonds and Pearls*. The Joffrey clearly hopes that the collaboration will help to restore the company's financial fortunes: its spring season in New York was cancelled due to cash problems.

Ward of God

FROM playing a hospital porter to portraying Jesus Christ is quite a promotion. The actor Robson Green achieves it this year when he swaps his customary part as Jimmy the porter in the BBC hospital drama series *Casualty* for the central role in the 1992 York Mystery Plays. He will be the only professional actor among a cast of hundreds of local people. The Mystery, newly verified by Liz Lochhead, opens at the Theatre Royal, York, on June 13.

Arrau honoured

CARMEN Arrau, daughter of the great Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau who died last year, was at the Festival Hall on Saturday night to receive on her father's behalf the gold medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society. That the medal was presented posthumously was not the RPS's fault: Arrau was due to receive it at a London concert in 1990, but cancelled because of illness. The presentation was rescheduled for a Düsseldorf recital last June. Arrau died four days before it happened.

Last chance...

LIKE Caesar's Gaul, the Glasgow Citizens Theatre (041-429 0022) is now divided into three parts, with two studio theatres carved out of what used to be bars by the foyer. The first three productions in the current season all end this Saturday: *Niagara*, a two-man piece for the acrobat Blondin and an ambitious fan; "1953", Craig Raine's fitfully successful reworking of Racine's *Andromaque*; and Giles Havergal's joyous adaptation of P.G. Wodehouse's *Summer Lightning*, dashing played and full of fun.

MUSICAL

Serious designs on the woman

My Fair Lady
Opera House,
Manchester

Stylised sets come to the musical at last. Lerner and Loewe's gloss on *Pygmalion* was beginning to sound frayed, filmy and contrived. But David Fielding's designs for this new touring production echo his work for English National Opera at the London Coliseum. They are wildly, perhaps disconcertingly, unnaturalistic. Abetted by Simon Callow's often minor-key production numbers, they carry the piece to a more serious level — from which it is almost shoved by occasional vulgarity.

This is provided by such gimmicks as toy trains and race horses, and by Jasper Conran's costumes: the Ascot scene looks like something out of the unannounced Ziegfeld: the women parade with a huge flower on each head. A tendency to slit skirts up to the hip looks less stylish than tarty, though vestigial bustles and a tattered crinoline frame among the lower orders intriguingly suggest finery thriftily recycled over the generations.

The sets are a delight, framed by white pillars and

walls on which examples of phonetic spellings are printed. For the Covent Garden scene, a doll's house version of the Royal Opera House is tilted crazily on heaped sacks of cabbages. The East End is brooded over by a similar model of St Paul's, supported on beer crates. The professor's study bristles with towering Heath Robinson creations of horn-speakers, books and bird cages, fit for Dr Coppelius's laboratory.

Mrs Higgins's South Kensington studio looks on to a lovely replica of the Albert Hall flanked by Harrods hatboxes. Higgins and Eliza work out (or not) their relationship in silhouette after the wall has flown away to leave a blue, cloud-flecked horizon. All this almost swamps the piece itself, especially as Callow brings extraordinary emotional weight to the central relationship. Helen Hobson is an eminently likeable Eliza, at first glance plain, then revealing huge eyes and a firm Edwardian jaw-line. She emphasises show-biz sparkle less than vulnerability, notably in an oddly touching "I could have danced all night", where insecurity is as evident as elation.

As played by Edward Fox, Higgins is one of the most



Swamped by the sets: Edward Fox and Helen Hobson

indistinct professors of phonetics ever. A giant personality is needed for those rather ramshackle *sprechgesang* numbers, as witness the reprieve of "Why can't a woman?" before a phlegmatically unimpassioned audience. Elsewhere, the character's cruelty towards his guinea-pig is uncomfortably vivid.

MARTIN HOYLE

CONCERTS

Master of the time machine

BBCSO/Knussen
Barbican Hall/
Radio 3

Colin Matthews's works of the last few years have marked him out as the Isambard Kingdom Brunel of contemporary music: master of great time machines, steamy with energy derived from pulse and from massive, surging harmony, and openly displaying their structural engineering, all finished with a craftsman's care.

Broken Symmetry, a BBC commission introduced at this concert, is maybe the biggest and most hectic of them all: a solid 25 minutes of motion for a large orchestra, including an important and highly diverse percussion section, ticking away like ratchets in the mechanism.

Apparently the piece owes its title to a top-sided mirroring around the main climax. However, this is not music

which it is easy to observe as if from the outside, as if it were a piece of architecture: the onward force it wields is too urgent and powerful, sweeping one into the flow, which at times is more an assault than a flow, battering not so much by means of noise as by the brutishness of cycling repetitions and regular rhythms. Matthews's divided feelings about Reich-Glass pattern music, expressed humorously in his 1989 piece *Hidden Variables*, now give rise to moments of disturbing frenzy, where the music seems to be infuriated by what has given it the go.

Complex in its groundings,

the work is also complex in its textures, so that it is hard to say whether it is fast or slow: again as in a piece of 19th century technology, there are usually different speeds at work at once, some spinning away (maybe in the extreme bass as well as the treble), some pulsing, some moving with weighty deliberation (beautiful long melodies for tight, polished, high woodwind groups; grand gatherings of brass).

Perhaps the closest comparison would be with Varèse, but Matthews's methods and incidents rarely point out from the main business at hand, and many of his ideas, like the flickering-flame prestissimo of trumpets towards the end, are startlingly new.

At that moment, and throughout, this was a heroic performance by the BBC

Symphony under Oliver Knussen. It wanted only a few thousand more cheering auditors, and that it will have at the Proms in the summer.

The evening's other new work, its ink still damp, was a set of four *Whitman Settings* by Knussen for soprano (Lucy Shelton not ideally enraptured) and orchestra. These are very beautiful, but they represent a painstaking illustration of the poet rather than a subsuming recreation of the poems.

Shelton was also the soloist in Sibelius's *Luonnotar*, and the concert blazed away at the end with Scriabin's *Prometheus*, David Horne serving out knightly forays from the piano, and the BBC Symphony Chorus sounding in from a balcony for the close.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Matured vintage

Montserrat Caballé
Festival Hall

Pamira's prayer from *The Siege of Corinth*, with its fierce invocation and gradual easing into a limpid *fido di voce* to finish. Two *Tancredi* arias took her from slow arching phrases and rounded single notes in "Giusto Dio" to the more elaborate

embellishments for "Di tanti palpiti", crowned with a finely voiced trill.

The singer had steady rather than scintillating orchestral support under José Collado, though some instrumental solos deserved credit.

In the Spanish zarzuelas that followed the soprano ranged from the complex emotions of a poignant num-

ber from *El Barquillero* (The Wafer-seller) by Chapi, often called "the Spanish Massenet," to a touching lament from Serrano's *La Canción del ovidio* (The song of forgetfulness).

In these zarzuelas items the voice seemed to grow ever younger. So she was ready to respond happily to vociferous acclaim and switch to long time favourite encores from Puccini ("O mio babbino caro") and Cilea.

NOEL GOODWIN



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A dark shadow across GI babies

Boris Becker, now dating a black woman, is speaking out against racism. Ian Murray reports on prejudice in Germany today

S am "call me Uncle" Turner, a 27-year-old American sergeant, put his arm around blonde Ingrid from Mannheim and considered the question: "Do we blacks feel any discrimination here in Germany?" He gave Ingrid an extra squeeze and listened for a moment as the thump of the music from the Alkazar Disco spread out into the night. "Yeah," he said. "I reckon she discriminates in my favour."

"Uncle", who has been serving on the American base in Mannheim for two years, had heard about Boris Becker's black girlfriend and was not surprised to learn the tennis star was now worried about racism in his country. "I guess the people don't like to see their golden boy getting chocolate," he said.

Ingrid did not laugh. Going out with Uncle might be fun, but being interviewed, with him as not, like thousands of other German women before her, she has not found it easy to have a black American boyfriend. She was not thinking of marriage. "That would be too difficult these days," she said.

For, as the bulk of the American army retreats from Europe, the good times are changing. The GI is no longer welcomed as a guardian of freedom but increasingly seen as a member of an unwanted occupying army. Relationships between white GIs and local women are becoming rare enough; those between black GIs and local women are even rarer. "We got the Reds out for them. Now they don't want the blacks," Uncle said.

Mixed marriages with local women were never easy, anyway. Sergeant Pierre Malary, also at Mannheim, met his German wife, Christa, in a disco 15 years ago when he first came to Germany. It took a bit of time for her family to accept him, even though he is a Haitian of muddled ancestry, and pale skinned.

"Since unification the situation is getting worse. You can tell, just walking in the street, from the way people look at you. If you are in uniform it is even worse, and it is going to get more so."

He has noticed that T-shirts with a picture of Hitler on them have become popular with some local youths and swastikas have started appearing on walls in Viernheim, the village where he lives. His wife's family, who used to visit most weekends, no longer come to see them. "They don't come over to me and I don't go over to them. No problem."

Tony Jones married his German wife, Margit, 12 years ago when

he left the American forces in Germany to become a paralegal worker. The couple have a seven-year-old son, Sacha. Mrs Jones once had to deal with being called a "nigger bitch" by other mothers when she picked up her son at kindergarten. "She stopped that. She is a pretty spunky little lady," Mr Jones says proudly.

He can only remember being subjected to racial harassment three times, but two of those occasions were this year. "Germans can't help being Germans. To be German is an absolute. Either you are a German or you are not."

"You walk into a restaurant and all of a sudden everything is reserved. Or you go and look for an apartment, and you can only find one at a kicked-up rent in a bad area. You can't prove anything, but it's a hell of a coincidence."

"Then there are things like basic service in supermarkets. It is like you are invisible. They don't see you unless you walk right up and shout in their face."

Mr Jones had studied German at school and asked to be posted there, although he was a bit troubled when he found that he had been billeted in the former SS barracks in Nuremberg. But he liked the country enough to decide to live there when he left the army, and has settled happily in Bamberg.

He, too, has noticed things have changed since unification. "Before there was a certain amount of hesitation. But now the Americans are leaving, we are in a retreat mode. Racism is more overt. The priorities are reversed and the support-mechanism that used to be there doesn't exist any more."

There are no race-discrimination laws in modern Germany on the constitutional grounds that everyone is equal before the law and therefore no one needs special treatment. But the problems of being both black and German are such that an organisation has been formed to look after their interests. There are 50,000 or more of them now, for the most part the children of US servicemen, like Barbara Feltus-Ferbst, Boris Becker's girlfriend.

Ed Reavis, a black American journalist who married a German nearly 30 years ago, has talked to many of these children. "It is frustrating to be a black German — a lot of the white 'enemy' in the family. The only black ally is the father and he usually isn't around. You only have your white mother and she has probably been disowned by her family."

"They don't know who they are. They say that when they were small they fled to the other side of



Mixed blessing: the match between Boris Becker and Barbara Feltus-Ferbst could affect his earnings

the road when they saw another black person coming. They feel threatened by meeting another black person until they grow up and come to terms with it."

Since unification Mr Reavis has stopped travelling to east Germany where he believes violence is being whipped up against non-Germans by "scum from the west. It is pretty hairy. I have no great desire to have some punk crush my skull in."

Black American servicemen, however, tend to be less worried by signs of German racism than they are about discrimination inside the army or back home in the United States. Michael Lamberg, a 41-year-old black former serviceman, has been in Germany for eight years and is the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, a voluntary organisation which specialises in race relations. He spends most of his time at Taylor

Barracks, Mannheim, investigating internal complaints, and only deals with about 12 cases a year involving Germans.

For the most part, Germans have been welcoming and continue to be kind and helpful, he insists. "The overall rapport is very good — but black soldiers still have to face the adversities of common racism." He says there is a "covert atmosphere of silent discrimination which makes you feel you are living in a pressure cooker."

Mr Lamberg remembers the advice given to all GIs when they arrive in Germany. "They say we should try to look average and try not to look different. But a black has got his average apparel of curly hair and a dark skin. How do you tell a black American not to look different? As a black you are going to be singled out."

This is more of a problem in

Germany than in other overseas postings. Mr Lamberg says, because there are virtually no blacks in the country, and because there was no German empire, no inherited tradition of working with them. This means that they are still a curiosity.

He finds banks refuse black soldiers loans, but grant them to whites. Some clubs always say they have full membership lists when a black applies to join. He had to abandon a charity concert for Eritrea after seven months of battle with the bureaucracy. Yet he feels he cannot make too much fuss because that would only make matters worse.

He is glad but a little cynical about Boris Becker's concern for racism since he started going out with a black woman. "With a mixed bride, he is going to sell his reputation. A bruised image will surely mean a bruised pocket book."

BLACK AND FLEEING BERLIN

John Amoateng-Cantara, aged 27 and a student of international journalism at City University, London, is the son of a white German woman and a black Ghanaian. Here he describes why he and his wife, Jeannine Cantara, aged 23, a trilingual secretary in the City, found life in Berlin intolerable

"Jeannine and I both have black fathers and white mothers. Most black Germans have black fathers and white mothers. There weren't any black women in Germany in the 1960s; only black GIs and black exchange students."

My father went from Ghana to Hamburg in 1963 to study engineering. Every German university town had a sprinkling of young black men. The white women were the only people who would talk to them and the black students often ended up having surreptitious affairs. My father got my mother pregnant.

My mother's family are very Roman Catholic. My grandfather was a monk before he married. Imagine how he felt when his daughter told him she was pregnant with a black child. He thought it was revolting but he expected my father to marry her.

I was brought up by my mother in Bonn. My father left home when I was three. As a child, I was regarded as cute and rather exotic. It was only when I grew older and became interested in girls that the problems developed. People no longer considered me sweet: they looked on me as a threat to their blue-eyed, blonde-haired little girls.

At school, I was the only black child. Other children tried to pick on me and I was always fighting. In the end, they were so frightened of me they kept away. I thought people didn't like me for my colour and I desperately wanted to be white. Then I read Malcolm X and the history of the black movement in America and it gave me some self-respect. I called them white bastards, wore a black beret, truncheon and became violent. But it gutted me. My mother and grandmother were white and I loved them.

My white uncle got me out of it. He took me to live with him when I was 15 and persuaded me to go back to school again. He was really proud of me when I graduated to Berlin University.

Everything became easier there. It was hard dating white

girls because they felt embarrassed about taking me home. But I made white friends and for the first time the professors were not biased.

The situation is worse now. I blame the recent wave of racism on unification. People used to be embarrassed to be German after the second world war but when they saw the Berlin Wall disintegrating they felt proud again. Nationalism became acceptable. Germans were all one happy family but blacks weren't part of it.

I was in Berlin when the Brandenburg Gate was opened. I climbed the wall and all around me people were singing "Deutschland über alles". I was told that it was a German celebration and I should go home.

The worst abuse comes from the east Germans. They thought they would be wealthy overnight but they have been crippled by unemployment and the blacks have become scapegoats.

I can't go back to Berlin. I would always be frightened of being attacked. There are certain areas you can't go to. "Nigger bashing" is now a popular sport. Blacks are beginning to take things into their own hands. They think the police aren't helping matters so they have set up vigilante groups but I don't want to be a part of it. My wife is more frightened than I am. She is fed up with Germany. There were 2,074 registered racist attacks in Germany last year.

My father-in-law has been harassed while waiting at traffic lights. He gets abuse at his work in a printing factory. He feels trapped in his house and visiting friends has become a nightmare. My father left 15 years ago. He didn't feel welcome in Germany so he went to Sweden. I don't blame him for splitting up with my mother. It was hard to keep the marriage going when there was so much prejudice against it. I thought all that had ended but it has come back with a vengeance."



Jeannine Cantara and John Amoateng-Cantara at home in London

While there are still lonely dreamers in towns, it seems the idyllic rural fantasy of *The Archers* will live on

Where it is forever Ambridge

Are you an *Archers* addict? If so, according to Hedji Niklaus, who plays Kathy Perks in the Radio 4 series, you are probably lonely, a town dweller, and far from your original home. The series could well remind you of your childhood and your parents.

She was speaking at the *Archers* Addicts stand at the Country Living Fair, a peculiar phenomenon which took place last week at Islington's Agricultural Hall in London, now revamped as the Business Design Centre. Here the country came (and went) to town, with their rustic displays of baskets and dried-flower arranging. Urban-weary Londoners fantasised about a rural idyll, one in fact created by the marketing men for the sponsors, *Country Living* magazine.

Essential to the rural idyll was *The Archers*, whose cast members manned the addicts stand. They also held daily live *Archers* performances for visitors keen to see behind the microphone. All day long, there were cries of "Oh so you're Kathy/Peggy/Mike/Jack" as they stumbled across the stand. Mugs emblazoned "I'm an *Archers* Addict" were selling well, as were car stickers and badges reading: "Dum de dum de dum de dum" (the rhythm of the programme theme tune).

"People always claim they are buying for someone else, but they are clearly asking

you to sign the postcards for themselves," said Terry Molloy, who plays the depressive Mike Tucker. As the visitors were mainly *Country Living* readers, he said the catchment was "a lot of mother-and-daughter combinations. They are on the whole suburb-dwellers, more Laura Ashley than ethnic."

The performances, on the other hand, attracted unashamed *Archers* addicts. During question time afterwards they asked anxiously what was to become of Peggy Archer's daughter Jennifer, currently conducting a clandestine affair. "We have our suspicions," answered Peggy, "but we don't really know about it yet." Many want to know whether Shula will eventually be granted a baby by her scriptwriters. "You can't just suddenly give it a happy ending, when other people have been struggling for years to have a child," retorted the producer, Niall Fraser.

In between wrapping *Archers* addicts mugs and T-shirts, Ms Niklaus was musing on the roles this peculiarly British phenomenon foists on both its listeners and players.

For the listeners, it appears, the biggest challenge is identifying the dividing line between reality and illusion. Many take the story so literally that they write in to those who are being duped or cuckolded. "I think you ought



A break from reality: Jill Archer offers Kathy Perks tea and sympathy at Brookfield

to know that your daughter is having a baby / Your ex-wife is carrying on with so-and-so," they say. When Sid Perks vanished to London for six weeks, one London-based addict spent all his time searching for him.

On a professional level, Miss Niklaus explains, each performance offers a technical challenge, such as how to produce convincing kissing sounds when she was reconciled with Sid. "Could you make it more vigorous?" the

producer kept asking. "Could you rustle your clothes?" Occasionally, real life overlaps into *The Archers*. Apart from the writers often including references to what is happening in the world, sometimes relationships mirror real life. For example, Tracy Jane White, the actress who plays Sid's daughter, Lucy, is the daughter of Alan Devereux, who plays Sid. As June Spencer (Peggy Archer) explained during last Thursday's live performance, there

was anguish some years ago among the cast when, in real life, the actor who played Peggy's husband died. His character continued to live a while longer in Ambridge. "It was very harrowing for us," Miss Spencer said.

And so to the tyrannical aspect of living in Ambridge. Being an *Archer* is quite like entering that other great British establishment family, the Windsors. But unlike the royal family, *Archers* actors have no security of employ-

ment. The BBC does not provide them with contracts, and they are all paid at different rates. Moreover, they are puppets whose survival depends on whims of their script-writers, such as Louise Page, Simon Frith and Graham Harvey.

Hence the distinct impression of insecurity verging on sycophancy by the real-life alter egos of Kathy, Sid, Peggy, and Jack towards producer Niall Fraser at the live performance last Thursday. They chivvy the audience to vote for Lizzy and Nigel's marriage, thus ensuring the continuing employment of Graham Seed, who plays Nigel, and who was written out of the series for some time recently. On hearing that "Lucy" will probably be coming back into the series, Alan Devereux says: "Tracy Jane will be delighted." Although Ambridge may offer its seven million listeners a sense of escape from the cynical world they inhabit, life in the studio clearly can be cut-throat.

The *Archers* Addicts Club was the initiative of Terry Molloy. "I put in a proposition to set up an independent company," he says. "The BBC said 'yes', but it would have to be made up solely of members of the cast."

Hence the mugs and the leaflets exhorting people to pay their £10 annual membership fee and join. But with one product, the club committee has perhaps gone too far. This is the *Ambridge Village Voice*, an imitation of a local newspaper. Its combination of real life (the actress June Spencer being awarded the OBE) and fantasy (Linda Snell's problem page) could tip some addicts over the edge.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

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Supporting cast makes a comeback

Jane Mulvagh reports on the highly skilled craft of corsetry, and fresh interest in the uplift of the boned, wired or padded bra

The bosom is hardly a modern accessory: its modernity lies in its deployment. At present it is being deployed as women's frontline weapon with a vengeance. This was brought home to me at Gossard's showroom, where Christine McDonagh, the lingerie buyer for the House of Fraser, was bemoaning the fact that she could not get Wonderbra deliveries fast enough. Sales of this underwired and padded cleavage bra, designed in 1968 and unchanged since, have increased four-fold in the past six months.

At £13.99, the Wonderbra offers the best plunge and uplift value on the market. To date 12 million have been sold. Rachael Vass-Betts, the chief designer at Gossard's, explains that although a more comfortable version could be manufactured with today's stretch fabrics and supple boning, "You wouldn't get the same uplift and cleavage as you do with this fantastic original."

Despite liberation, elastic fabrics and workouts, women are employing steel wires in bras, busques and corsets to create that well-endowed look. Their disciplined bosoms call to mind Horace Walpole's account of a young man who had gone into combat against a lady's stays. "They now wear a steel busk down their middle and a rail of the same metal across their breasts. If a hero attempts to storm such strong lines, and comes to a close engagement, he must lie as ill-at-ease as St Lawrence on his gridiron!"

The mass market has been slow to demand its fashionable bosom. As early as 1980, fashion's focus began to shift when the designer Issey Miyake introduced his moulded plastic bustier, and by 1983 Jean Paul Gaultier's spiral-stitched conical bra had left the fashion press in no doubt that this ergonomic zone was the new centrepiece of fashion. Vivienne Westwood's underwear as outerwear hammered home the point.

The mass market caught on in the late 1980s. According to Gossard, sales of contoured bras rose by 20 per cent in 1989 and,

despite the recession, rose another 10 per cent last year. In the autumn the company will be launching its first padded range for more than two decades, entitled Bewitched, and a moulded range called Smooth Jazz which, while offering uplift, lies smooth under clinging clothes as it has no seams or lace insets.

Over the past five years the mass-market bra manufacturers have come to realise that the bra need not be just a functional item. The consumer is slowly accepting that different bras are needed for different outfits — prompted by fashion shows in department stores that show fashionable clothing alongside the lingerie that should be worn with it — and that the most decorative can be worn to be seen.

Fabrics that stretch to fit mean now that radical shape need not be uncomfortable

Invented in the late 19th century, the bra proved to be ahead of its time and women clung to their corsets until the first world war. Then in the 1920s the corset shrank and became variously known as a "bust supporter", "soutien-gorge" or "brassiere". By the mid 1930s, most women were wearing the bra. The bust was exaggerated once more and "falsies", borrowed from the women's sports arena where they were worn for protection, were implanted into bras.

Curiously, in the same period that the Wonderbra was launched, women began "burning" their bras and Rudi Gernreich, the American dancer-turned-designer popularised the "No Bra Bra". Uplift and padding were out as the fashion-conscious either chose un-

derwear that suggested nudity or jettisoned the bra altogether.

Despite this flat focus, the needs of larger women ensured that the corsetry business survived. Specialist stores such as Rigby & Peller of Knightsbridge continued to bone and support the well-endowed and wealthy, while Berlei and others provided mass-market cantilevering.

Aspiring engineers of the corsetry trade are trained at Leicester Polytechnic, which offers the only Corset Fashion degree course in Europe. In the heart of Britain's textile region, with corsetry firms and the Nottingham lace industry close by, students learn to sculpt wire, bone, stretch Lycra and Tactel into contoured underwear. It is a highly skilled craft, as such underwear involves many more sections, pads and wiring in its construction, than the natural-style bra. Inspiration is provided by the archives of old corsetry from the disbanded Symingtons factory now housed at The Leicester Museum, though the extremes of yesterday have to be tempered to contemporary taste. Elasticated fabrics that stretch to fit mean that bra elements that were once rigid can now be pliable, so radical shape need not eliminate comfort.

While the average woman may be satisfied with the plunge and uplift of a Wonderbra, some are driven to extremes of both shape and investment. Pearl, a New York corset designer, offers ready-made corsets for £300 and beaded and jewelled custom-made versions for £2,000 upwards. (Available to order from Browns, South Molton Street, London W1.) He claims to be able to cinch the waist by between six and eight inches, a feat achieved by severe lacing done at three successive fittings, "to gradually reorganise the organs so that you can pull it tighter".

There is nothing mass market about Pearl who, with a glint in his eye, draws your attention to the suffering that beauty can demand. One of his clients, who has achieved an 18-inch waist, sleeps in a steel waistband and exercises in a corset.



Shown off to perfection: the balcon bra, used in a leather jacket by Azzedine Alaïa, emphasises the new centrepiece of fashion

A question of social mobility

In the macho world of car advertising and design, some real needs have been forgotten

A television advertisement shows a fast-moving car hugging every bend as it negotiates the snaking mountain pass. In another, a car speeds along as the cane fields explode into flames. These are the archetypal images of car advertising. If you have no interest in burning up the road, then the message is that these cars are not for you.

Motor manufacturers continue to spend millions on associating their products with thrilling, youthful images, while the population gets older. The next 15 years will see the number of male drivers over 65 rise by 45 per cent, and female drivers of the same age by 170 per cent. Add to that the current total of 6.2 million registered disabled and you have a minority all but ignored.

Just as you can ask of someone who claims to be fit, "fit for what?" so you can ask of designers "ergonomic for whom?". The answer is, for the 95 per cent of male, able-bodied users and 50 per cent of women for whom they are designed. If you belong to the wrong 50 per cent of women, are old, or have a mobility problem, you are of marginal interest to the motor manufacturers.

An exhibition at London's Design Museum, More Mileage Car Design for Elderly and Disabled People, is examining how the needs of such people are being met. It leaves you in no doubt that the motor industry does little to cater for the needs of the one



Gwen Lynch: 'The disabled have social lives and the car allows them to continue normal life'

group of people who must have a greater moral right, and need, to drive cars at a time when the rest of us are supposed to be saving natural resources by giving up our cars in favour of public transport.

Gwen Lynch, the mother of two young boys, who suffers from arthritis and who drives a Vauxhall Cavalier that has been adapted to her needs, admitted to being excited by what she saw at the exhibition. It was "enlarging perceptions of disability", she said, and acknowledging that "the disabled have lives, social lives, and the car is the main way of allowing them to continue normal life".

For many disabled drivers, living a normal life might require no more than a car with an automatic

gearbox, power steering and (preferably) electric windows. Such features are now standard on the executive cars, but out of the financial reach of the majority.

Power steering, however, may be essential for many disabled users, and manufacturers who do not provide it on affordable cars deprive them of a normal life. For others, the answer lies in a specially adapted vehicle such as the Ford Escort, with shallow door sills and long chair runners so that the seat can be pushed back, as well as a wheelchair hoist and a passenger seat that swivels outwards through 90 degrees, all making for easy access.

Other drivers need hand-controlled brakes and accelerator, which Volkswagen fits as standard on 400 cars a year. Drivers who want another make will have to go to a specialist, such as Gowings, who will adapt the car to their needs.

However, Mrs Lynch points out that such add-ons increase the price. When her Vauxhall Cavalier was being adapted she wanted an infra red control for locking and unlocking the doors, which would have cost £350. She did without.

With the exception of the French prototype Gateau Eggo-3H (driven with all hand controls), the cars in More Mileage have been customised, fitted with special

gadgets to make life easier for their drivers and passengers. But the exhibition demonstrates that what is needed is not gadgets but better design. Door handles could be made longer so that they could be opened with two hands, door pockets could be better positioned so that they do not trip you up when getting out.

Ron Williams, a Detroit designer of racing cars, bicycles and wheelchairs, says that when you get into your transport it should feel as if you are wearing it. "The problem with being disabled is that you are forced into shapes that don't fit."

The same goes for old people. As the population ages there will be more and more people whom cars will not fit. They will not be looking for faster acceleration or more exhaust pipes but cars designed to meet their needs. When Mrs Lynch came to drive away the car that had been adapted for her, she was unable to get at the deeply recessed cup in which the ignition had been set. Only when half a bulldog clip had been bolted to her key and bound with insulating tape was she able to turn the engine on. If the manufacturer had ensured the switch was accessible, mobility would not have hung on the driver's handicraft skills.

ROBERT S. SILVER

If you have a feel for decoration and ornamentation, a new, permanent gallery in the V&A could transport you to heaven. The gallery — the first of its kind anywhere in the world, according to the museum, and five years in the making — examines the use of European ornament from 1450 to the present day. The definition of ornamentation — the application of decoration to any given object, rather than the object itself — gave the exhibitors a wide brief, and there is a vast and diverse range of products.

The overall design of the exhibition is logical and accessible, though the first room hurls the visitor in at the deep end by juxtaposing 17th-century handbooks detailing the use of ornament in engravings with early 20th-century peach tin labels. Fragments of wallpaper, cartouches and appliqué gilding demonstrate the way in which such motifs as acanthus leaves or swags can cross continents.

Most outlandish is the display of a 1990 zipped and studded black leather jacket next to a similarly aggressive piece of 16th-century leg armour. Solid colour applications are represented by a tartan sash (not a relic from the Bay City Rollers fan club, but English and dating from 1850) and Rievel's famous red/blue chair (over which hovers, for no immediately discernible reason, a model of Concorde).

Decorative piercing is illustrated in the twin forms of an elegant Josef Hoffmann vase — the cubic reticulation of which echoes much of Mackintosh's work — and an enormous, clod-hopping brogue shoe, its undulating perforations very familiar, but rather strange



Customised 1990s jacket

Tastes of the ornate

Is decoration art? A unique gallery at the V & A could settle the argument

when viewed in isolation. A line of contemporary aluminium hub-caps is hung like precious plaques over a very ornate marble garden bench, which is next to a gathering of 18th-century earthenware, 1991 Reebok trainers (the most decorative aspects of which are the purple and blue soles), a 1960s op-art tie, and a 1970s pocket calculator. All of which leads the visitor to wonder whether this opening shot was assembled by a loony after good lunch, but the successive four sections bring logic to bear on what is a very artful assembly.

Next comes the room devoted to the classical architectural orders, blissfully calming after all the razzmatazz. The visitor enters through a beautiful 18th-century Doric doorway rescued from a Kensington house due for demolition and is immediately surrounded by every manner of column and capital: Palladio's engravings, Adam's variations, a superb French model of the five orders of 1780, and an even more gorgeous 19th-century model of Bramante's Tempietto in Rome, in walnut and pearwood.

Paintings must endure the ignominy of having been hung for the architectural significance of their frames, and examples of jarringly ungrammatical applications of the five Orders are shown to illustrate just what is correct.

The constant factor over the centuries — common to artefacts as various as weapons, urns, Wedgwood jasperware, advertising logos, tableware, mantelpieces, jewellery and shopfronts — is the ornamental motif.

Imaginary animals, ranging from the Sphinx to Mickey Mouse by way of the unicorn, recur constantly, as do the pelts and plumage of the real thing: peacocks, snakes, zebras, tigers, as well as a wiggly all-over pattern

called vermiculation, said to be imitative of worm tracks, and much used by Vanessa Bell and, more recently, Zandra Rhodes.

Although the gallery is nominally restricted to Europe, in the final section a nod is given in the direction of Islam, India, Egypt, Africa, China and Japan. However, the applications of their most famous motifs are just as likely to emanate from a European country as from their own, as exemplified by a 1760 Dutch tin-glazed earthenware plate depicting blue and white 15th-century Chinese vases against a bright-yellow ground.

Eventually, the new European Ornament Gallery may be seen to be a microcosm of the entire V&A. This will be not just because the new gallery is accessible and fun, nor because it anchors together disparate motifs into a comprehensible whole, but quite simply because it articulates so admirably the sense of order.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

© The European Ornament Gallery, Level 2, Henry Cole Wing, Victoria & Albert Museum

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CHAIR OF PSYCHIATRY

This will be the first appointment to the academic Department of Psychiatry of which the appointee will be Head. Applicants should have an established academic reputation and be presently engaged in research activities within the field of adult psychiatry. The successful applicant will deliver clinical psychiatric services in an agreed geographical area of North Humberside in conjunction with NHS colleagues.

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Closing date for applications: 10th April 1992.

Particulars of the appointments are available from the Senior Personnel Officer, telephone 0482 465807 or write to:

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UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

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Salary will be negotiable.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Head of Personnel Services, The University, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ. Tel: 0334 76161 ext. 263/522 (out of hours 0334 76556), fax 0334 76551, to whom completed forms accompanied by a letter of application should be returned to arrive not later than 2 April 1992. Please quote ref. No. SL02.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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The teaching needs of the School are in the areas of Ancient History and Latin. Applications are sought from scholars in either of these disciplines and are particularly welcome from those who have, in addition, interests in other areas of the School's activities. An appointment to a lectureship will subsequently be made to complement the expertise of the scholar appointed to the chair.

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Further particulars (please quote ref 92/1) are available from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN (telephone (0232) 245133 ext. 3044/5044 or FAX (0232) 324944).

The University is committed to selection on merit, but, as an Equal Opportunity Employer, welcomes applications from all sections of the community. As there is an under-representation of women in academic posts, applications from women are particularly welcome.

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For application form and further particulars (Ref: 25/92) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 18th April 1992.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

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POSTS

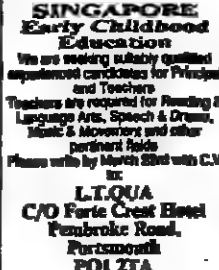


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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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The electors intend to proceed to an election to the George Kelley Readership in Metallurgy, with effect from 1 October 1993 or such later date as may be arranged. The stipend of the reader will be on the scale which is at present £24,922 to £28,185 per annum. The readership is associated with a non-stipendiary professional fellowship at St Edmund Hall.

Applications (ten copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 4 May 1992 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 4 May 1992 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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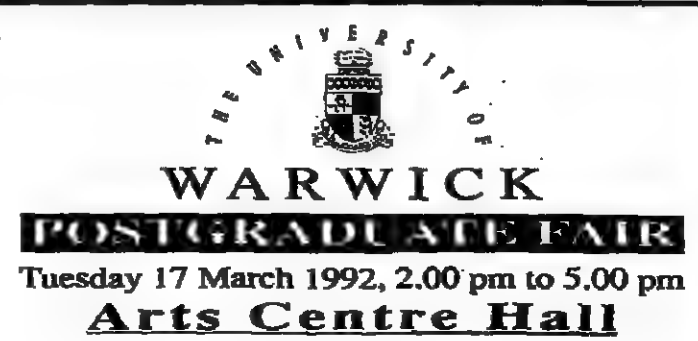
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Inspecting the options

Who will appoint the judges at the back of the class? John O'Leary on the political side of school inspections

Tomorrow's debate in the House of Lords may get the Parent's Charter on to the statute book in time for a general election, but it certainly will not end the controversy over school inspections.

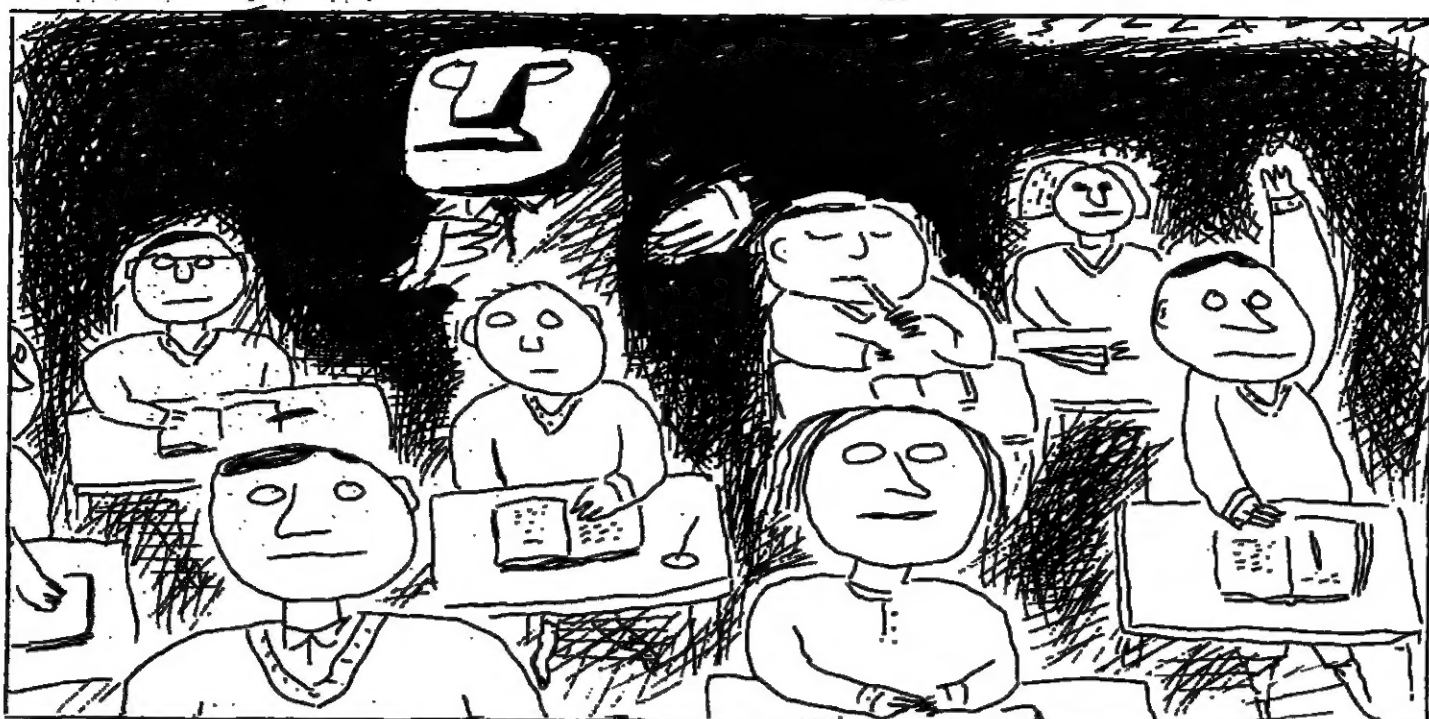
Labour will continue to oppose the government's plans to privatise school inspections, although Conservative peers are unlikely to be ambushed a second time on the Education (Schools) Bill. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has grudgingly accepted the compromise dictated by the Lords' amendments, but might soon return to the subject in the event of a Conservative election victory.

The original inspection plans were the most radical of the government's education reforms. The switch to private inspection teams bought in by the schools themselves struck at the heart of education orthodoxy, undermining local services and removing the main function of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, the 150-year-old cornerstone of the state system.

The Lords' amendments have restored the right of local authority inspectors to enter schools, and have made the head of HMI responsible for the selection of full inspection teams. The bill still requires schools to be inspected every four years, however, as well as allowing private teams to tender for inspection business. The money to administer the new system will be removed from local authority budgets, and put in the hands of school governors.

Mr Clarke, putting a brave face on a climbdown, argued that the selection of inspectors was a "minor point". His opponents preferred the verdict of Lady Blatch, the government's education spokeswoman in the Lords, that the amendments would "tear the heart out of the bill".

Whoever is right, the amendments have taken much of the heat out of the debate. Conservative critics have achieved their main objective, since school governors will not now hire inspectors. Lord Beloff, who once described the bill as the silliest ever to come before Parliament, says: "It is still not the



CONSERVATIVE

THE Parent's Charter promises full inspections of every school every four years. Governors would publish a summary, and explain steps taken to deal with criticism. Inspection teams could be run by local authorities or private companies, but would have to include parents. They would be paid for by the schools, which would have up to £30,000 from local authorities for the purpose. HMI would have its numbers cut from 480 to 175, concentrating on research and the accreditation of local inspectors.

bill I would have written, but at least governors will not now be responsible for competitive tendering. I imagine there will have to be an amending bill when we see how this works in practice."

Some of those with recent experience of the inspection system doubt that it will work. Dr Terry Melia, the senior chief inspector, is maintaining a diplomatic silence, but his two predecessors believe that the workload involved in approving 25,000 inspection teams could cripple HMI.

Professor Eric Bolton, now of the London University Institute of Education, says: "I do not think it is workable. HMI would turn into a regulatory body when its real strength is in the knowledge gained from inspections."

Sheila Browne, the principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, doubts that either the Conservative reforms or the Labour alternative are the answer, although she accepts that change is needed.

LABOUR

AN Education Standards Commission, independent of government, would oversee the work of a combined Inspectorate incorporating HMI and local authority services. The commission would report to Parliament, rather than ministers, and its members would be approved by the Education Select Committee of the Commons. The advisory and monitoring roles of HMI would be separated. Schools would be inspected at least every five years, and the reports circulated to parents.

"The value of this is that it gives time for thought. The debate has done quite a lot of good if it has made existing agencies of inspection consider what their contribution should be."

Labour claims that the amendments mirror the party's proposals for a system linking national and local inspectorates under an Education Standards Commission, which would function independently of government. A new bill would be required, however, to implement the new structure.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, rejects the view taken by Professor Bolton and Miss Browne that such a body would have little influence if it lost the ear of ministers. "The history of the last 13 years is one of HMI being ignored and finding the split between public and private accountability intolerable. Getting everything out into the open will make them far more effective."

If nothing else, the proposals have made it inevitable that there will be changes in inspection. And, whatever the reservations about the league tables and inspection system of the Parent's Charter, the government's initiative has touched a nerve on the amount of information available to parents. Although HMI visited 7,000 schools and colleges last year and observed more than 50,000 lessons, it issued only 228 institutional reports.

Local inspections do not fill the gap. Few reports are published, and the dual responsibilities of local authority employees encourage some to protect schools by toning down criticism. Dr Melia, in his annual report, said that only a third of local inspection systems inspired confidence.

Yet with management consultants beginning to opt out of the new inspection market, Mr Clarke has accepted that most of the work will be undertaken by local authority teams. Without a link to a

national body, there must be a risk that the new system will provide more of the same.

Concern remains, too, about the emphasis on four-yearly full inspections. Private consultants and inspectors' organisations have argued that the system needs to be more flexible. Miss Browne says: "I remember making a regular inspection of grammar schools and unwittingly writing a report almost exactly the same as the last one because there was so little scope for change in the school."

Professor Bolton believes that a new system could be adapted in a number of ways, perhaps incorporating elements of the French system, which links a national inspection force with local services. Too much political capital has been invested in the proposals for the government to retreat further, but it is hard to believe that they will survive for long in their present form, whichever party wins the election.

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Concern remains, too, about the emphasis on four-yearly full inspections. Private consultants and inspectors' organisations have argued that the system needs to be more flexible. Miss Browne says: "I remember making a regular inspection of grammar schools and unwittingly writing a report almost exactly the same as the last one because there was so little scope for change in the school."

Professor Bolton believes that a new system could be adapted in a number of ways, perhaps incorporating elements of the French system, which links a national inspection force with local services. Too much political capital has been invested in the proposals for the government to retreat further, but it is hard to believe that they will survive for long in their present form, whichever party wins the election.

have made it inevitable that there will be changes in inspection. And, whatever the reservations about the league tables and inspection system of the Parent's Charter, the government's initiative has touched a nerve on the amount of information available to parents. Although HMI visited 7,000 schools and colleges last year and observed more than 50,000 lessons, it issued only 228 institutional reports.

Local inspections do not fill the gap. Few reports are published, and the dual responsibilities of local authority employees encourage some to protect schools by toning down criticism. Dr Melia, in his annual report, said that only a third of local inspection systems inspired confidence.

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LIB-DEM

HER Majesty's Inspectorate would be strengthened, taking on the role of ombudsman, in addition to traditional duties. Reports would be independent of government, assessing standards nationally and monitoring local inspection. Local inspectors would be employed by education authorities, but would be legally responsible to HMI. Schools would be inspected on a four-year cycle, but there would also be interim inspections. Parents would be able to appeal to HMI to arbitrate in disputes.

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Parents can appraise, too

STANDARDS in schools would be raised overnight if the good teachers were rewarded and the bad teachers were sacked. Goats to the left for their P45s and sheep to the right for their extra incentive allowances. As politicians have realised, firm action of this kind would be widely supported by the public. But how easy is it to sort out the good from the bad?

Improvement of teaching and learning needs more than the big stick and a juicy carrot, because most teachers are neither exceptionally good nor unreasonably bad. This is where a teacher appraisal scheme could be more effective than the stick or carrot approach. The education secretary is already convinced that the compulsory national appraisal scheme will "enhance the professional skills of teachers and hence improve the education of their pupils" (DES Circular 12/91).

The two-year appraisal cycle involves the collection of information, classroom observation, interview and, most importantly, an action plan for improvement. Its regulations accentuate the positive with a view to eliminating the negative. Recognition of achievement, improvement of skills, career development, better management of teachers and help and training for "school teachers having difficulties with their performance" are all aims of the scheme.

This is all good stuff, but will it work? There are a number of problems that have to be tackled for appraisal to work.

Promotions have often been based on subjective judgments and expediency. Where senior managers have proven troublesome or ineffective, they have been simply sidelined, their inflated salary intact, and someone else appointed for the job. Teachers, who have often been left ignorant of the criteria for promotion, regard such action as unjust. Many complain that no one tells them how they are doing. Disciplinary procedures are often ignored or used ineptly.

The national appraisal

scheme provides a chance to do much better, but given the inertia in the system, great efforts will have to be made if it is not to degenerate into a paper exercise.

The "consumer" can help. School governors should take a positive interest in individual appraisal action plans, and monitor their outcomes.

Where the support and training of an ineffective teacher have not produced results, for example, governors should arrange for the teacher to receive advice about alternative employment. Where he or she is determined to stay put, there are existing procedures for early retirement or where all else fails, dismissal. Effective heads and governors should not "pass the parcel" and provide reference for teaching jobs in other schools, which is fair neither to those schools nor the failing teachers.

Parents should be much more prepared to provide feedback of teacher performance — to express appreciation of good teaching and to ask what is to be done to improve ineffective teaching. Some schools are leading the way dealing with the problem of possible victimisation

of the child by providing regular opportunities for parents to provide an anonymous feedback.

Unfortunately, some schools find it difficult to deal effectively with failing teachers. Ineffective teachers are damaging, and I am convinced that teacher appraisal helps schools to deal with this problem. But it requires the will to make it work, and unless sheep are justly rewarded and goats are dispatched, most teachers will remain sceptical about appraisal. Worse still, pupils will continue to suffer the long-term consequences of ineffective teaching.

"School failure" on the part of the pupil will be the result of management failure. Consumer support and enquiry will be welcomed by effective schools and may help to galvanise the laggards.

The author is an education consultant

VIEWPOINT

Derek Esp



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Independence brings a new challenge

After a tough week in which he saw one of his pet schemes overturned by the House of Lords, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, can at least be relieved that his Further and Higher Education Act has reached the statute book.

Work now begins in earnest at 600 further, tertiary and sixth form colleges in England and Wales to prepare for their independence. They leave local authority control in April 1993.

Graham Phillips, of the Henley College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, is typical of many principals who have already begun to plan for the new corporate status, which was granted to the polytechnics in 1988. A peak of activity is expected from April to October.

Principal of the college since it was formed through amalgamation in 1987, Mr Phillips is a man who picks his words carefully. He says: "Colleges are now mature enough to run their own affairs. Principals and governors will employ their own staff, handle their own budgets, and be responsible for land and buildings. Many are already in an advanced stage of planning."

If the flow sheets and charts of aims, responsibilities and likely difficulties are any guidance, then Henley is well advanced. Management systems are in place and senior staff have a clear idea of what is expected of them. Governors with expertise in financial, personnel and property management will be appointed as the college becomes responsible for the services previously supplied by Oxfordshire County Council.

Now that the act has been passed some uncertainties may be removed, such as the way the two national funding councils for England and Wales will work with the regional advisory committees and the local training and enterprise councils. Mr Phillips lists the advantages as freedom of action, increased competition, improved quality

As colleges run their own affairs, a warning of the possible dangers



Principal planner: Graham Phillips of Henley College

ty, clear priorities and the ability to plan.

He is equally clear, however, about the possible disadvantages. He fears that the less popular colleges and courses could go to the wall, as they and the difficult students may find they have nobody to protect them. The adult education needs of the local community, an important aspect of life in Henley, could be neglected.

"We hope we will be able to continue to satisfy community needs, and that we will be given the funding to do that," Mr Phillips says.

"At its worst, competitive bidding for increased student numbers could serve to promote only the needs of institutions, while at its best, operation could best serve the needs of individual students. This is a key area where tension or conflict could emerge in the future."

In planning a successful move to independence, Mr Phillips says that it is essential to set conditions and develop

quality improvement systems and processes across the college, beginning with management information systems, project management and good communications.

Once the systems are in place, the key objectives, he says, are to provide systematic guidance and support for all students and to develop a high-quality profile to improve good relations with everybody using the college.

High-quality, adaptable and well-motivated staff will be essential if the college is to improve viability through increased participation, selective diversification and more efficient teaching methods.

The proportion of those staying on in full-time education at 16 in England and Wales averages 53 per cent, but the rate for Henley is 75 per cent, so scope for improvement is limited. The government wants to raise the present one-in-five who now enter higher education to one-in-three by 2000, and expects the colleges to play a

pivotal role once they run their own affairs.

Vital in improving the numbers continuing in full-time training and education will be the extent to which the division between the makers and the thinkers, which characterises so much of British education, can be broken down. Mr Phillips says that at his 4,500-strong college every course and student enjoys parity of esteem.

"The key will be the extent to which employers and higher education institutions will accept the new qualifications, and there are still some doubts," he says.

Henley offers about 20 Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) courses, as well as 42 A-levels and the International Baccalaureate. New courses such as performing arts and more finance, accounting and business qualifications are likely to be introduced following independence. Mr Phillips is also discussing joint courses with West London and Oxford polytechnics.

Funding in the first year of independence is unlikely to be very different from the present £7 million a year, but financial incentives are likely to follow and many principals believe they will be able to embark on building and improvement projects more quickly than has been possible in the past.

Each college will set what it believes is a reasonable average cost for each student, but the government hopes that as a result of the reforms this average cost will drop.

For all of this to be possible, Mr Phillips says, the college will have to discover new ways of raising money, perhaps from the European Community and organisations and companies. Deirdre Kimbell, one of Henley's vice-principals, says why: "Bidding for money is something that we are going to have to get good at."

DAVID ALEXANDER

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EASTER REVISION 92

AT DAVIES'S COLLEGE

Counsel alerted as to duty

available to the plaintiff since she and the defendant no longer live together as husband and wife in the same household within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Act.

available to the plaintiff since she and the defendant no longer live together as husband and wife in the same household within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Act.

HIS LORDSHIP said the court had no appellate jurisdiction on judicial review. Its role was purely supervisory and it could intervene only if there were shown to be illegality, procedural impropriety or unfairness.

WILL IT?

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax (90793) 6.30 Breakfast News (57945286)
9.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical studio discussion (9073847) 9.50 Hot Chefs Paul and Joanne Rankin prepare roast banana in puff pastry with vanilla and Jamaican rum (8119083)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (8033793) 10.05 Playdays (8536118) 10.25 Stamp (8103680) 10.35 No Kidding (Family quiz game show) (8556847)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (4278847) 11.05 Rosemary Conley, Health and fitness series (3126373) 11.30 People Today, Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (8902266)
12.20 Pebble Mill, Music and chat introduced by Judi Sifers (2622915) 12.55 Regional News and weather (60254199)
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (53139)
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceefax) (s) (40373539) 1.50 Going for Gold, General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The question-master is Henry Kelly (46773575)
2.15 Knots Landing, West coast spin-off from the Dallas saga (3733265) 2.30 The Odd Couple, Comedy series based on Neil Simon's hit Broadway play (8073267)
3.25 Bazaar, A Chinese recipe, hints on quick house cleaning and gardening advice introduced by Nerys Hughes (8085002)
3.50 Orville and Cuddles, Cartoon (8678151) 3.55 Radio Roo, Episode ten of the 13-part comedy drama (8550422) 4.10 Jackanory (s) (5161539) 4.25 Ovide, Cartoon (s) (4981243) 4.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, (Ceefax) (7315314)
5.00 Newsround (8811557) 5.05 Blue Peter, (Ceefax) (s) (8764373)
5.35 Neighbours (s), (Ceefax) (s) (438422), Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart, Weather (593)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (335), Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan, Includes Michael Ball singing the first two entries in this year's search for a "Song for Europe" challenger (s) (4002)
7.30 Watchdog, Consumer magazine presented by Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton (847)
8.00 Mulberry, John Emonds and Bob Larbey's tepid comedy series starring Geraldine McEwan as Miss Faraday, the crabby employer of handymen Mulberry (Karl Howman), (Ceefax) (s) (2482)
8.30 Wildlife On One: Babes Beware, Why the small babies of Jodhpur's Hanuman langur monkeys are in a race against time to grow up, (Ceefax) (s) (8557)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk, (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8151)
9.30 Panorama: Sliding Into Slump, What has caused Britain's deepest recession since the 1930s? Peter Jay talks to Nigel Lawson, Sir Alan Walters, Nicholas Ridley, Bernard Ingham, Lord Jenkins and Denis Healey (213460)
10.10 Match of the Day: The Road to Wembley, Highlights of tonight's FA Cup quarter-final between Chelsea and Sunderland at Stamford Bridge, introduced by Desmond Lynam (827258), Northern Ireland: Scan 10.40 Cagney and Lacey (827258)
10.55 Cagney and Lacey, Policewoman drama series (s), (Ceefax) (520422), Northern Ireland: 11.30 Match of the Day



A study in adult education: comedian Mike Harding (11.45pm)

- 11.45 Second Chance.
● CHOICE: In case you missed the fact this is Adult Learners Week, dedicated to persuading people to take up courses of education and training. Introduced by the comedian Mike Harding, himself a mature student, Second Chance occupies the week with a series of case studies. Tonight's subject is Vickie Fox, who left school with no qualifications but is now training to be a nurse. She explains how she juggles her studies with looking after a family of three young children. Running through the week, these personal stories are framed by short comedy sketches featuring the likes of Les Dennis, Peter Dinklage and Anita Dobson. On Friday there is a showing of Will Russell's *Educating Rita* in which Liverpool headteacher Julie Walters joins the Open University with Michael Caine as her alcoholic tutor, (Ceefax) (174780), Northern Ireland: 12.15am-12.30 Second Chance
12.00 Weather (7428558), Ends at 12.05am
2.00 The Way Ahead, The eighth of 12 programmes explaining April's new benefits for the disabled (8848519), Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Images in Hogarth's Paintings (8076170), Ends at 7.10
8.00 Breakfast News (973170)
8.15 Westminster (970793)
8.30 Boating Butler, Tony Butler takes a look at life on the water side between Upton-on-Severn and Stourport (s) (78847)
9.00 Daytime on 2, Educational programmes
9.00 News and weather (7435402) followed by *Storytime* (s) (56824847) 2.15 Regional Westminster Programmes (s) (231474), Northern Ireland: Our Roving Reporter 2.20 Harry and the Hendersons 2.45 High Life of the Rock, An RSPB documentary following the exploits of a colony of high living birds (s) (1881915)
3.00 Village Praise, The first of six Songs of Praise programmes for Lent comes from the Cotswold village of Guiting Power (s), (Ceefax) (s) (8490083) 3.40 Glyn Christian's Serendipity, The first of five programmes on Sri Lankan cuisine (4640625) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (4648808)
4.00 Catchword, Paul Coia with another round of the game for wordsmiths (240)
4.30 Slow Boat From Surabaya, Jack Fitzzy investigates religious rituals in south-east Asia (s), (Ceefax) (4425731)
5.25 Film 92 Special with Barry Norman, An interview with director Martin Scorsese (s) (s) (3154408)
6.00 The Addams Family (b/w), Classic ghoulish comedy based on the cartoon characters from the New Yorker magazine, (Ceefax) (847838)
6.25 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince Of Bel Air, Adventures of an inner-city Pittsburgh boy who is sent to live with wealthy relatives in affluent California (826248) 6.45 Open to Question, Disabled actor Nabil Shaban answers questions from a young audience (461354) 7.20 Kingcase Cinema, A classic Tex Avery cartoon (129777)
7.30 Young Musician of the Year: Masterclass, The third of five masterclasses given to participants from the 1990 and current Young Musician of the Year competitions. This week horn soloist Michael Thompson gives encouragement to a trumpet, a euphonium player and a French horn player (s) (858347)
8.10 Horizon: The Strange Life and Death of Dr Turing, ● CHOICE: Christopher Rylands' clear and accessible portrait of the eccentrically brilliant Alan Turing is inevitably as much about the man as the scientist. Turing was an outstanding mathematician. During the second world war he was the leading figure in the breaking of the German Enigma codes which saved allied shipping from huge losses from U-boat attacks. His lifelong obsession was to build a machine that could think. Along the way he hit on the principle of modern computer science. Turing was also a homosexual. His affair with a young man in Manchester led to a conviction for gross indecency and may have contributed to his suicide at the age of 41. In 1990 he had predicted that a "thinking machine" could be built by the end of the century. Bringing the Turing story up to date, the film reveals how far scientists have got, (Ceefax) (s) (82947)
8.30 The Mary Whitehouse Experience, Acerbic comedy from David Beedell, Hugh Dennis, Rob Newman and Steve Punt (s) (7783)
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience, Acerbic comedy from David Beedell, Hugh Dennis, Rob Newman and Steve Punt (s) (7783)
9.30 Prisoner Visit: David Hayman and Christine Kavanagh (9.30pm)
10.30 Underbelly, The final part of Peter Ramsay's political thriller starring David Hayman and Tom Wilkinson, (Ceefax) (s) (88847)
10.30 Newsnight presented by Sue Cameron (507006)
11.15 The Late Show, Includes a profile of Egyptian writer Alaa Hamid (s) (401118) 11.55 Westminster (308644)
12.00 Open University: Poverty in the 1990s (21836), Ends at 12.30am

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ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (368847)
9.25 Lucky Ladders, Word association game hosted by Lennie Bennett (8226033) 9.55 Thames News (6181170)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a topical discussion (8747847)
10.40 This Morning, Magazine series (440084)
12.10 Rosie and Jim, Children's puppet series
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Russell, (Oracle), Weather (7781064) 1.10 Thames News (77151257)
1.20 Home and Away, (Oracle) (53724083) 1.50 A Country Practice (s) (8557083)
2.20 Thames Help, Jackie Spradley looks at options for adult education (46089199) 2.50 Family Feud, Soap linking the north of England with Australia (5152353)
3.15 ITN News headlines (8305557) 3.20 Thames News headlines (8680170) 3.25 The Young Doctors, City-based Australian medical drama series (8081422)
3.55 Cartoon featuring Sylvester the cat (660211) 4.00 T-Bag and the Sunstones of Montezuma, Luscious in the adventure series (868267) 4.25 Ship 'n' Dale - Rescue Rangers, Cartoon (5941731) 4.50 Utterly Brilliant, Timmy Mallett learns about sand sculptures (s) (5887422)
5.10 Blockbusters, General knowledge quiz (8758712)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Sudworth, (Oracle), Weather (827189)
5.55 Thames Help, Jackie Spradley with news of National Adult Learners Week (573712)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Oracle) (5151)
6.30 Thames News, (Oracle) (731)
7.00 Wish You Were Here... Judith Chalmers visits Seville, the host city for Expo '92, John Carter takes in the Orkneys and the Hebrides and Nick Owen returns to Cortu for the first time in 16 years, (Oracle) (s) (9170)
7.30 Coronation Street, (Oracle) (815)
8.00 Take Your Pick, A revival of the 1950s game show with Des O'Connor in the Michael Miles role and contestants having to decide whether to open the box or take the money (s) (5118)
8.30 Works in Action: No Fixed Abode, The first of a two-part report on the homeless, compiled by a reporter who has been living rough on the streets of the capital for the past month (4625)



A multitude of plots: Michael Kitchen and Isla Blair (9.00pm)

- 9.00 The Advocates.
● CHOICE: In the days when it ran for an hour, *The Bill* used to boast of the number of storylines it could cram into one episode. The returning Scottish legal drama seems bent on doing the same thing. At a rough count there must be a dozen or so plots and subplots interwoven in tonight's instalment, from murder investigations to an unstable character (played by Hugh Fraser as Poirer) and the show's thrusting young solicitor (Ewan Stewart) splitting with his girlfriend. The most important line to follow is probably that of the barrister (Michael Kitchen) accused of killing his wife, Meanwhile Dunbar and Partners, the law firm at the heart of the series, continues to be kept afloat by the brink and scandalous legal battles. With no shortage of plot, there is no shortage of tantalising loose ends waiting to be tied up, (Ceefax) (7422)
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Carol Barnes, (Oracle), Weather (77118) 10.30 Thames News (101373)
10.40 Film: When a Stranger Calls (1979) starring Charles Durning and Carol Kane, Effective stomach-churning about the killer of two children who escapes from prison and begins to terrorise the only witness to the murders - the children's babysitter. Directed by Fred Walton (21805189)
12.30am SportsWorld Extra, Includes golfing action from the Balcarran open in Majorca (78478)
1.30 Film: They Call It Murder (1971) starring Jim Hutton and Jessica Walter, Film for an absolute TV series about a gambler who takes his own death in order to escape paying his debts and then tries to collect the insurance money. Directed by Walter Grauman (76403)
3.30 Reap the Whirlwind, Drama serial set in 19th century Cape Town (s) (34851)
4.30 Stage 1, Ralanderson and Pals Saints in concert (86294)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson (22518), Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3696488)
9.25 Schools (5408319)
12.00 Right to Reply, Viewer Jean Davies reports on what is being done for the children of St Petersburg after the Dispatches programme Mother Russia's Children. Among the people she talks to are Tom Roberts, the film's director, Lynne Chalker, overseas development minister, and Anatoli Danilinski, a Russian embassy official (s), (Teletext) (s) (67731)
12.30 Business Daily, Susannah Simons with news from the world's financial centres (86354)
1.00 Sesame Street, Entertaining early learning series. The guest is actress Tyne Daly (81809)
2.00 Film: Upstairs and Downstairs (1961) starring Michael Craig and Anne Heywood, Androgynous comedy about a young married couple and their attempts to engage a reliable live-in cook/housekeeper. Directed by Ralph Thomas (847808)
3.55 Icaro, Italian animator Antonella Abbielli's version of the Icarus myth (8633460)
4.00 Flowering Passions, The third of Anna Pavlov's ten-part series features growers preparing for the Chesterfield Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show (s), (Teletext) (844)
4.30 Countdown, Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game. For the next three days he is joined in the Dictionary Corner by actor Norman Paning from *The Archers* (828)
5.00 The Late Late Show, Dublin's music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne (8083)
6.00 The Cosby Show, American domestic comedy series starring Bill Cosby (s), (Teletext) (793)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross (s) (373)
7.00 Channel 4 News, (Teletext) Weather (532915)
7.50 Comment (818877)
8.00 Brookside, Soap set in suburban Merseyside, (Teletext) (6460)
8.30 Evening Shade, Folksy comedy series set in small-town America, starring Burt Reynolds as a former footballer who goes back to his roots to coach his local school team (s) (2267)
9.00 Cutting Edge: Benenden.
● CHOICE: A term in the life of the Princess Royal's old boarding school in Kent opens with new girls saying fearful farewells to mum and dad and ends with a lacrosse match. Despite the series, Kathy O'Neill's film is hardly cutting. O'Neill is content to evoke the flavour of the place and leave the viewer to decide whether less of £10,000 a year is well spent. There is nothing about Benenden's academic record, much on the attempt to build character. The school does not have an official motto. The headmistress suggests an unofficial one: "work hard and play hard". The girls are said to come from a mixture of backgrounds, though the overall tone is distinctly Joyce Grenfell. One of Benenden's odder traditions involves younger girls declaring crushes on older ones. It is much more innocent than it sounds (5084)
10.30 ThirtySomething, First episode of the comedy drama following the lives of a group of friends in their late 30s, (Teletext) (545606)
10.55 Catch Five - Joseph Heller and Rembrandt, The first of five programmes in which Joseph Heller, author of *Catch 22* looks at favourite Rembrandt masterpieces, beginning with *Aristotle Contemplating the Bust of Homer* (477528)
11.05 The Last Days of Pompeii, The story of the emigrating Italian, their prospects in the new Europe and the future for those who stay behind (s) (444170)
12.20am Tonight with Jonathan Ross (s) (s) (8110045)
12.50 Angola, A portrait of the African country, its people, politics and music. In Portuguese with English subtitles (1177294), Ends at 1.40



Anyone for lacrosse? Benenden schoolgirls at play (9.00pm)

SATellite

- SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (802029) 8.30 Mrs Peppercorn (8501325) 8.55 Playboys (871238) 9.10 Cartoons (452129) 9.30 The New Line 4 to Be (8540) 10.00 Maudie (84731) 10.30 The Young Doctors (18189) 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.30 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30am Sunday Jones (2977) 1.30 Another World (872354) 2.30 Santa Barbara (4482248) 2.45 Who's the Boss (872118) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (862731) 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (747189) 3.50 Different Strokes (1170) 5.30 Backyard (8625) 6.00 Facts of Life (8258) 6.30 Carole Carr (8118) 7.00 Love at First Sight (8606) 7.30 AI (8502) 8.00 Soapstars (8625) 8.30 A Newswatch (870076) 9.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 10.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 11.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 12.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 1.00am The Young and the Restless (51278) 1.30am The Bold and the Beautiful (42189)

- SKY MOVIES+
● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (802029) 8.30 Mrs Peppercorn (8501325) 8.55 Playboys (871238) 9.10 Cartoons (452129) 9.30 The New Line 4 to Be (8540) 10.00 Maudie (84731) 10.30 The Young Doctors (18189) 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.30 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30am Sunday Jones (2977) 1.30 Another World (872354) 2.30 Santa Barbara (4482248) 2.45 Who's the Boss (872118) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (862731) 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (747189) 3.50 Different Strokes (1170) 5.30 Backyard (8625) 6.00 Facts of Life (8258) 6.30 Carole Carr (8118) 7.00 Love at First Sight (8606) 7.30 AI (8502) 8.00 Soapstars (8625) 8.30 A Newswatch (870076) 9.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 10.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 11.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 12.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 1.00am The Young and the Restless (51278) 1.30am The Bold and the Beautiful (42189)

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- SKY SPORTS
● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (802029) 8.30 Mrs Peppercorn (8501325) 8.55 Playboys (871238) 9.10 Cartoons (452129) 9.30 The New Line 4 to Be (8540) 10.00 Maudie (84731) 10.30 The Young Doctors (18189) 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.30 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30am Sunday Jones (2977) 1.30 Another World (872354) 2.30 Santa Barbara (4482248) 2.45 Who's the Boss (872118) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (862731) 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (747189) 3.50 Different Strokes (1170) 5.30 Backyard (8625) 6.00 Facts of Life (8258) 6.30 Carole Carr (8118) 7.00 Love at First Sight (8606) 7.30 AI (8502) 8.00 Soapstars (8625) 8.30 A Newswatch (870076) 9.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 10.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 11.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 12.00 The Young and the Restless (51278) 12.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (42189) 1.00am The Young and the Restless (51278) 1.30am The Bold and the Beautiful (42189)

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- WORLD SERVICE
All times in GMT. 4.30am The Week Ahead 4.40 Travel and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.50 Weather 6.00 News about Britain 6.15 Recording of the Week 6.30 London Main 6.50 Weather 7.00 Newsweek 7.30 Britain Today 8.00 News The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth 8.15 Health Matters 8.30 Anything Goes 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Ten 9.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.01 It's Your World 10.10 The Jamesons 10.20am Jazz Parade 12.35 Alex Lester with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music
Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Glynis Humphard 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Grey says Thanks for the Memory 7.30 Alan Day with Dance Band Days, and at 8.00 Big Band Jam 8.30 Big Band Special, with the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with The Best of Jazz on record 10.00 Kenny Ball Bandshow (s) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Jazz Parade 12.35 Alex Lester with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

- ITV VARIATIONS
ANGLIA
As London except 2.30pm-2.50pm Graham Kerr (850203) 2.50-3.15 Graham Kerr (850203) 3.15-3.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.35-3.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.55-4.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.15-4.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.35-4.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.55-5.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.15-5.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.35-5.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.55-6.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.15-6.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.35-6.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.55-7.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.15-7.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.35-7.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.55-8.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.15-8.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.35-8.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.55-9.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.15-9.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.35-9.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.55-10.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.15-10.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.35-10.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.55-11.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.15-11.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.35-11.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.55-12.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.15-12.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.35-12.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.55-1.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.15-1.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.35-1.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.55-2.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.15-2.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.35-2.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.55-3.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.15-3.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.35-3.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.55-4.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.15-4.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.35-4.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.55-5.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.15-5.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.35-5.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.55-6.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.15-6.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.35-6.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.55-7.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.15-7.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.35-7.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.55-8.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.15-8.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.35-8.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.55-9.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.15-9.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.35-9.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.55-10.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.15-10.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.35-10.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.55-11.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.15-11.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.35-11.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.55-12.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.15-12.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.35-12.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.55-1.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.15-1.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.35-1.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.55-2.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.15-2.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.35-2.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2.55-3.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.15-3.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.35-3.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 3.55-4.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.15-4.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.35-4.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 4.55-5.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.15-5.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.35-5.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 5.55-6.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.15-6.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.35-6.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 6.55-7.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.15-7.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.35-7.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 7.55-8.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.15-8.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.35-8.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 8.55-9.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.15-9.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.35-9.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 9.55-10.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.15-10.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.35-10.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 10.55-11.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.15-11.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.35-11.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 11.55-12.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.15-12.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.35-12.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 12.55-1.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.15-1.35 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.35-1.55 Sons and Daughters (850203) 1.55-2.15 Sons and Daughters (850203) 2